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CONTENTS

PAGE

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- Palestinian Front at Home Criticizes Jordanian-PIO Committee
(Suhayl Khalil; AL-HURRIYAH, 8 Oct 79) 1

AFGHANISTAN

- Amin Message on UN Anniversary
(Kabul Domestic Service, 23 Oct 79) 10
- Part I, by Hafizollah Amin
Part II

EGYPT

- Trial of Syrian Saboteur in Cairo
(Ala' Rif'at; AL-AKHBAR, 2 Nov 79) 13
- Proposed Constitutional Amendments Discussed
(Salah al-Hafnawi; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 27 Oct 79) 15
- Elections for University Student Unions Postponed
(Mas'ud al-Hinnawi; AL-JUMHURIYAH, 24 Oct 79) 19
- Prosecution of Defendants in 1977 Riots Completed
(Ala' Rizq; AL-AKHBAR, 24 Oct 79) 21
- Short Biographies of Expected Future Leaders of Journalism
Provided
(AL-JUMHURIYAH, 25 Oct 79) 23
- Alexandria Local Council Opposes Proposed Location for
Nuclear Power Station
(Abd al-Wahhab Mursi; AKHBAR AL-YAWM, 3 Nov 79) 39

- a -

[III - NE & A - 121]

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
Briefs	
Minister for Radio, Television	41
IRAN	
Shah's Trip to U.S. Believed Medically Unnecessary (EXCELSIOR, 28 Oct 79)	42
Chronicle of Organized Political Activity (ETTELA'AT, 16, 19 Aug 79)	43
Mojahedin Khalq's Statement	
Five Political Organizations	
Statement by Moslem Party	
Statement by Malek Ashtar Group	
Islamic Revolutionary Mojaheds	
Anniversary of Fatemeh Amini's Death	
Open Letter to Prime Minister	
Nationalization of Industries	
Establishment of Homafar Mojahed Organization	
National Democratic Front Charges	
Proposed Islamic Front for Poor	
Doctors, Nurses Support Mojahedin Khalq	
Tehran Teachers' Statement	
Moslem Teachers Movement	
Tehran Industrial University Demands	
Kordestan Situation Viewed by Leaders (KEYHAN, 12 Sep 79)	49
Briefs	
MiHANDUSTAN Party Letter	54
Political Organizations Not To Demonstrate	54
National Front Regret	54
Supporting Qods Day	54
Women's Democratic Establishment	55
Mardom Party on Elections	55
Movement of Moslem Fighters	55
Iranian Society of Cooperation With Palestine	55
Tohidi Party Warning	55
Massive Participation	56
Fedayee Khalq Statement	56
Honoring Samad Behrangi	56
Political Prisoners' Society	57

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
ISRAEL	
Autonomy Plan a Year After Camp David Assessed (HA'ARETZ, 21 Sep 79)	58
Egyptian Assessment of the Middle East Situation Reviewed (HA'ARETZ, 12 Sep 79)	63
Weizman Appoints Jurists To Examine Shamgar Committee Recommendations (Jerusalem Domestic Service, 9 Nov 79)	66
Defense Ministry Denies Reports on Abolition of Coordinator's Post (Jerusalem Domestic Television Service, 15 Nov 79)	67
Briefs	
October Immigration Figures	68
Trade Deficit Rises	68
Bedouins Compensated Withdrawal	68
Oil Imports Statistics	68
Press Readership Figures	69
KUWAIT	
U.S. Arms to Israel Belie Desire for Peace (Editorial; AL-RAY AL-'AMM, 16 Sep 79)	70
Threat To Export Iranian Revolution Deplored (Editorial; AL-RAY AL-'AMM, 17 Sep 79)	71
Dangers Facing Arab World Noted on Camp David Anniversary (Editorial; AL-RAY AL-'AMM, 18 Sep 79)	73
MAURITANIA	
Development of Eastern Hodh Depends on Exploitation of Underground Wells (CHAAB, 17 Oct 79)	75
Briefs	
Iron Ore Exports	79
Port Construction	79
Federal Front of South	80

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
MOROCCO	
Libyan Good Will Called For in Implementing Agreements (Editorial; L'OPINION, 27 Sep 79)	81
Manpower, Social Security Agreements Signed With Libya (L'OPINION, 27 Sep 79)	83
Health Agreement Signed With China (L'OPINION, 27 Sep 79)	84
QATAR	
Briefs July Oil Production	85
SYRIA	
USSR Military Aid Discussed (Jorg Stocklin; LE FIGARO, 17 Oct 79)	86
Briefs Treatment of Political Prisoners Syria-CSSR Energy Cooperation	88 88
TUNISIA	
Foreign Minister Fitouri Discusses Maghreb Situation (Mohamad Fitouri Interview; L'OPINION, 26 Sep 79)	89
WESTERN SAHARA	
POLISARIO Presents Saharans Captured During Smara Operation (LE MONDE, 16 Oct 79)	92
YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC	
Opposition Elements Said To Be Organizing Against Regime (AL-HURRIYAH, 22 Oct 79)	95
Information Minister on Democratic Process, National Unity (Yahya al-'Arshi Interview; AL-MUSTAQBAL, 20 Oct 79) .	99

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PALESTINIAN FRONT AT HOME CRITICIZES JORDANIAN-PLO COMMITTEE

Beirut AL-HURRIYAH in Arabic 8 Oct 79 pp 22-24

[Article by Suhayl Khalil: "Is Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee a Committee to Bolster or to Fragment Steadfastness; Jordanian Regime, Instead of PLO, Strengthens Its Positions With Steadfastness Monies; PLO Leadership Required to Take Serious Critical Pause Toward Positions of Palestinian Side and to Correct Committee's Course; National Front's Observations on Joint Committee; Palestinian National Front at Home Demands Correction of Its Relationship With PLO; National Front Is Only Channel Linking PLO With Occupied Territories; It Is Required That Relations With Opportunists Well-Known for Their Suspect Connections With Palestinian People's Enemies Be Cut Off; Verbatim Text of Memorandum of National Front at Home to PLO"]

[Text] In its latest meeting, the PLO Executive Committee rejected a Jordanian proposal to unite the universities and higher institutes of the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the banner of a new university to be set up in Jerusalem under the direct control of the Jordanian Ministry of Education. The Jordanian side to the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Bolstering the Steadfastness of the Occupied Territories submitted the proposal and was able to persuade (!) the PLO representatives to present this proposal to the PLO leadership for approval.

Sources close to the PLO Executive Committee have pointed out that the refusal is due to two major factors:

That this sly proposal, which was submitted on the pretext of developing the educational conditions in the occupied territories, comes within the context of the feverish attempts being made by the regime to find inlets to the occupied territories and to create institutions operating under its control, thus bolstering its political influence which has been contained and reduced by the national and progressive forces in these areas, led by the National Front. These forces have also isolated the regime's men advocating locally the spread of this influence, such as Anwar Nusaybah, Anwar al-Khatib, Hikmat al-Misri, Ilyas Furayj and others.

Moreover, this proposal practically oversteps the authority supervising the educational and teaching conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories, namely the Higher Educational Council which includes within its framework the best cadres and experts in Palestinian national education, as well as representatives of all the universities and higher and middle-level institutes and representatives of the various national and progressive political inclinations and currents. The said sources have also pointed out that the PLO Executive Committee has again stressed that the Higher Educational Council in the occupied territories is the sole channel through which and with which the PLO actually coordinates approval of all educational affairs in these territories.

Penetration Attempt and Containment Attempt

The attempt to contain the universities and institutes of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to place them under the wings of the Jordanian ministries and government agencies is not the first attempt through which Amman's Government has tried to penetrate the occupied territories and to enhance its influence there. The Jerusalem Electricity Company--part of whose concession some lackey elements (Ilyas Furayj) tried to sell to the Israelis with Jordanian approval but the national forces were able at the time to foil the deal--is another example and there are numerous other examples.

An observer of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee which was formed several months ago by a resolution taken at the Baghdad summit to distribute the steadfastness funds to the occupied territories discovers quickly that there is a big flaw in this committee's course of action and its directives. This flaw reaches at times serious limits that cause the gravest harm to the people's cause and to the steadfastness of the part of the people living under occupation and limits that strongly undermine their morale and dignity. This comes from the fact that the directives and resolutions undermining the Palestinian struggle are adopted with the approval of the Palestinian side which is headed by a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

The talk about "serious limits" does not emanate from the "exposure" of the Jordanian regime's annexation intentions, from its constant desire to create a foothold for itself in the occupied Palestinian territories and from its engaging in sabotage against the national forces and institutions. These are old and completely known intentions and aspirations that constitute fundamentally the justification for the regime's existence and the essence of its historical task. The danger lies in the fact that this regime's representatives are always able to persuade (!) the Palestinian side in the joint committee of the proposals that the regime presents on "how" to spend the funds allocated by the Baghdad [summit] for the occupied territories, not to mention the quantitative issues.

Observers inside the occupied territories, including the national institutions, the municipal councils and the national and progressive forces and personalities, are unanimous that the institutions and the individuals

following the Jordanian regime in one way or another get the lion's share of these monies. There are numerous national institutions around which there is an iron siege through which no form of aid penetrates to these institutions as a result of the Jordanian side's determination and the Palestinian side's indulgence.

On the other hand, protests of various forms and tones are still coming in succession from the occupied Palestinian territories over the committee's work, the outcome of its efforts and the Palestinian side's unjustifiable relinquishment of the demands of the national institutions supporting the PLO. Actually, the national institutions well-known for their loyalty to the PLO and for resisting and fighting the occupation daily are denied all forms of aid. Moreover, major municipal councils, such as the Nablus Municipal Council, are denied aid despite the enormity of their economic problems for no reason other than the national position they adopt toward the Jordanian regime--a position about which the least that can be said is that it is one of abiding by the PLO program and by the Palestinian National Council's resolutions. Halhul Municipality is still awaiting aid even though it presented months ago its plans and projects to the joint committee that has even refused to receive them. The reason is the same [as above]. Big charitable societies and popular and social organizations have been given no aid whereas small organizations and closed clubs following the Jordanian regime, in the person of the individuals supervising them, receive endless aid from this "joint" committee. This is happening at a time when the national institutions are experiencing conditions that make them in the direst need of this aid which was fundamentally allocated for them at the Baghdad summit--both the aid received and the aid not received.

The goals of the Jordanian regime are fully clear. As a result, of the rightist Palestinian concessions made in the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and of taking advantage of the absence of serious Palestinian pressure, the Jordanian side is able to use its geographic location and the influence given to it "free of charge" by the Palestinian side in the joint committee and tries to blackmail and subjugate the national institutions, the social councils and the popular organizations. The regime is working openly and flagrantly on the basis of the rule "lessen your loyalty to the PLO and you will get financial aid for your institutions." The regime is enabled to play this role by the complete silence of the Palestinian side in this committee--a silence for nothing in return.

It is truly an astonishing surprise that this committee is turned, as a result of the domination of the Jordanian side over it [sic], into a factor for besieging and containing the national forces and institutions in the occupied territories in an attempt to subjugate them and make them swerve from their struggle goals, instead of the opposite.

Thus, and as a result of the lack of experience and knowledge with the conditions of the occupied territories by the Palestinian side in the joint committee and as a result of the formation of this committee and the

initiation of its work without prior determination of its tasks by the PLO on the basis of clear political directions, the Jordanian side is able to impose daily its plans and goals gradually and with the open approval of the Palestinian side.

In this context, it is not surprising that the Palestinian National Front has come out with a sharply-worded message warning the PLO leadership of continuation of the joint committee's work in its present form and calling for abolition of all the resolutions adopted by this committee and for re-forming the Palestinian side in the committee to include all the resistance factions so as to guarantee that the committee's work will proceed in accordance with the Palestinian people's true interests as embodied by the national forces, institutions and councils at home, led by the National Front.

Now that the National Front has urged the PLO leadership to take a serious critical pause toward the concessions made by the Palestinian side to the joint committee and to put an end to these concessions, the democratic, progressive and national forces inside the PLO are required to play a major and important role in this regard--a role based on the need for serious intervention and for pressure with all the means to expose the intentions, actions and annexation ambitions of the Jordanian regime. This role should also be based on designing the joint committee's work in such a manner as to transform it truly into a committee for bolstering the national steadfastness in the occupied territories and not a committee for fragmenting or wasting this steadfastness and on recommitting Jordan to the role set for it at the Baghdad summit--namely the role of coordinator and not of a partner and of a decision-maker in the issue of distributing these monies to the institutions, councils and popular organizations in the occupied territories. This should be done so that the Palestinian side may turn into the sole decision-making side that directs this steadfastness operation in accordance with the Palestinian people's national interests and goals.

National Front's Observations Concerning Joint Committee

1. The Palestinian National Front rejects completely the Jordanian role in the joint committee and demands that this role be reduced to its size in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions that have defined Jordan's role as that of a coordinator and not of a partner.
2. The Palestinian side's ceding of the Baghdad summit resolution to the Jordanian side has given the latter a bigger role than that of the Palestinian side. Moreover, the daily actions within the framework of the joint committee intensify the Jordanian side's domination of the committee and weaken the Palestinian side's role in it.
3. The Palestinian National Front demands the abolition of the present structure of the joint committee and calls for forming the Palestinian side of all the Palestinian organizations and forces, provided that each

organization is represented by an individual with sufficient knowledge of the conditions of the occupied territories so that the position of the Palestinian side may become the stronger.

4. The Palestinian National Front rejects the agreements that have been reached by the joint committee and that act, with the blessings of the Palestinian side, to tie all our national institutions in the occupied territories with the Jordanian governmental departments because these agreements sabotage the Palestinian National Front's accomplishments of keeping these institutions out of the reach of the Jordanian regime and its annexation policies throughout all these years of struggle.

5. The Jordanian regime is spending, with a Palestinian cover, the steadfastness monies freely on its lackeys and men in the occupied territories so as to build bridges of trust and to establish relations with the inhabitants of the occupied territories and to harass, in return, our national institutions, to obstruct their enhancement and to deny them any aid.

6. When the joint committee is changed, the Palestinian National Front can offer the Palestinian side help and assistance through its responsibility to present a complete plan capable of strengthening the economic resources and the national institutions in a manner that bolsters the resistance, struggle and steadfastness of our people and that prevents the containment of our people and the distortion of their march.

7. The National Front supplies the Palestinian side with detailed information on the municipal and village councils and the other authorities and on their inclinations and needs and makes proposals in this regard. [as published]

Palestinian National Front at Home Demands Correction of It's Relations with PLO:

Sources close to the PLO Executive Committee have revealed that the leadership of the Palestinian National Front in the Occupied Territories, which is the organization's [PLO's] political arm in these areas, addressed in the last third of last September a message to the PLO Executive Committee containing critical observations on the "indeterminate relationship the PLO and the Palestinian National Front at Home," according to these sources which also pointed out that the message contained observations to the same effect concerning the work and course of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee which was formed by a Baghdad summit resolution to distribute the steadfastness monies allocated by that summit.

On the first issue, the observations expressed by the front on the relationship with the PLO demanded that this relationship be corrected and that the observations be discussed officially on the basis of taking a serious critical pause toward them--a pause reflected mainly in the need that the "National

Front be considered the sole political instrument of the PLO in the occupied territories." In the context of this observation, the National Front asserted that it abides by the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people wherever they exist through its political program and struggle tasks. The front also asserted that it exerts efforts to block the path of and to confront directly all the advocates of an alternative or a parallel leadership.

On the other hand, the message stressed that the front exerts efforts to spread and bolster the PLO's political and struggle program so as to reject and foil all the imperialist, liquidationist and annexation plans, such as the self-rule plan and the united kingdom plan, and to realize our people's goals of repatriation, the right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent national state.

The aforementioned informed sources add that the front's message also included within the context of its observations the emphasis that it is the organizational framework and the sole channel for political dealings between the PLO and the occupied territories so as to guarantee, as the message said, a united position toward all the local, Arab and international issues. The front's message also stressed that this requires the PLO to sever all its contacts with the opportunists who are well-known for their suspect connections with our people's enemies. It seems that the message refers to individuals such as Rashad al-Shawwa, Hikmat al-Misri and Ilyas Furayj who have intensified their harmful and flagrant actions under the PLO's cover, as the message says.

To guarantee a sound relationship with the PLO leadership, the front's message underlined the front's commitment to supply the PLO with all the political news, reports and analyses on the general situation in the occupied territories in return for the PLO's supplying the front with all the political programs and positions and with the Arab and international contacts gradually.

Concluding its observations on its relationship with the PLO, the front points out that it is necessary that its relationship be directly with the PLO leadership, i.e. with the Executive Committee, so as to maintain the secrecy of the relationship and preserve the well-known security aspects, as the message says.

Protests Course and Work of Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee

Within the context of the observations made by the National Front on the work and course of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, the same sources that are known to be close to the PLO Executive Committee, have said that the front's message also included the following most important observations: The front's absolute rejection of the Jordanian role in the joint committee and the demand that this role be reduced to its size in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions which defined Jordan's role as that of a coordinator and not of a partner.

The message also warned of the free concessions made by the Palestinian side and said that these concessions give the Jordanian side a bigger role than the Palestinian role and that this escalates the Jordanian side's domination of the joint committee and weakens the Palestinian side's role.

The front also demanded in its message abolition of the joint front in its current structure, calling for formation of the Palestinian side of all the Palestinian organizations and forces, provided that each organization is represented by an individual with sufficient knowledge of the conditions of the occupied territories so that the position of the Palestinian side may become the stronger, according to the message.

The front also rejected all the agreements reached by the committee--agreements described by the front's message as attempts to tie the national institutions in the occupied territories to the Jordanian governmental departments with the blessings of the Palestinian side. The message said the agreements sabotage the front's accomplishments of keeping these institutions out of the reach of the Jordanian regime and of its annexation policies throughout the years of struggle.

The message warned that the regime is spending the steadfastness monies on its agents and men in the occupied territories and that it uses these men to build bridges of trust and establish relations with the inhabitants of these areas. In return, this regime harasses our national institutions, obstructs strengthening them and denies them any aid.

The front promised in its message that it will offer help and assistance to the Palestinian side in the joint committee, when it is changed, through its responsibility to present a complete plan capable of strengthening the economic resources and the national institutions in a manner that bolsters the resistance, steadfastness and struggle of our people and institutions and that prevents the containment of our people and the distortion of their procession. The front also promised that it will supply the Palestinian side with detailed information on the municipal and village councils and the other authorities and on their inclinations and needs and will make proposals in this regard.

Verbatim Text of Memorandum of National Front at Home to PLO

Dear brother chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee, a greeting of struggle and revolution:

We in the Palestinian National Front look with pride at the struggle efforts that you exert with a sincere revolutionary spirit in the various spheres of struggle to end the occupation and to achieve our people's hopes and aspirations for the right to self-determination and for their independent national state. We appreciate your leadership of our people's struggle against the capitulationist imperialist plans embodied in the Camp David accords, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, the self-rule plan and the Hashimite annexation

plan, i.e. the united Arab kingdom plan--these plans that seek to erase and liquidate our people's national cause and to abolish the vanguard role of the Palestinian national leadership embodied in the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people.

The present and future stages in which the threads of the U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian plot against our Palestinian people and national leadership will be completely tied together through the repeated attacks against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian camps and through revival of the Jordanian annexation plan, embodied in the united kingdom plan, with the aim of weakening the PLO, subjugating our people in the occupied territories, weakening their loyalty to the national leadership and pushing them toward capitulation to the White House liquidationist plans--these stages require the cohesion of all the Palestinian national forces and require doubling their efforts for a fundamental national unity and firm democratic relations so that PLO and all its forces may be able to repel and foil the imperialist onslaught.

Dear brothers, the serious nature of this stage, the national duty and the common responsibility require a serious critical pause toward the indeterminate relationship between the PLO and the Palestinian National Front in the Occupied Territories because this relationship suffered from a flaw in the past stage. Out of our awareness of the grave consequences of the continuation of the existing flaw that will only serve the enemies of our people and those plotting against their cause, we are all required to exert efforts to correct it. The National Front presents to you here its viewpoint on a number of issues, underlining its opinion regarding the bases on which the relationship between the PLO and the front should be established and requesting that this viewpoint be discussed by the Executive Committee with all its members and that it be answered officially:

A. Concerning Internal Relations:

First, the Palestinian National Front is the sole political instrument of the PLO in the occupied territories. Consequently, the front acts upon and abides by the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people wherever they exist through its political program and its struggle tasks. The front exerts efforts to block the path of and to directly confront the advocates of the alternative or parallel leadership and abides by the ceaseless struggle to paralyze any attempt to outflank the PLO.

Second, the front exerts efforts to spread and bolster the PLO's political and struggle program so as to reject and foil the imperialist, liquidationist and annexation plans, such as the self-rule plan and the united Arab kingdom plan, and to realize our Palestinian people's goals of repatriation, the right to self-determination and the right to establish their independent national state.

Third, the Palestinian National Front is the organizational framework and the only channel for political dealings between the PLO and the occupied

territories so as to guarantee a united position on all the local, Arab and international issues. This requires the PLO to sever all its contacts with the opportunists who are well-known for their suspect connections with our people's enemies because these contacts harm the PLO's reputation among our masses and the damage is further intensified by the flagrant actions committed by these individuals under the PLO's cover.

Fourth, the Palestinian National Front supplies the PLO with all the news reports and political analyses on the general situation in the occupied territories and the PLO supplies the front with all the political positions and program and Arab and international contacts gradually [sentence as published].

Fifth, the Palestinian National Front finds it more convenient for its relationship to be directly with the PLO leadership--the Executive Committee--so as to maintain the security aspect on the one hand and to insure safe and speedy direct contact without any restrictions on the other hand.

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AFGHANISTAN

AMIN MESSAGE ON UN ANNIVERSARY

Part I

GF240744 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 23 Oct 79 GF

[Message from Hafizollah Amin, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the United Nations--read live by Khayal Mohammad Katawazi, minister of information and culture]

[Text] Brave compatriots: On this auspicious occasion, when the 34th anniversary of the United Nations is being celebrated throughout the world, I am honored and pleased to express my congratulations to all toiling and noble people, all toilers of the world, and all peace-loving and progressive forces in the world on behalf of myself and all my struggling colleagues in the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], in the Revolutionary Council and in the Council of Ministers. I sincerely wish for the success of peace, democracy and social progress throughout the world.

The United Nations, following the decisive victory of the forces of peace over fascism and its affiliated circles of warmongers, has continued its [word indistinct] to save future generations from the miseries of war that have twice burdened the world's masses.

While great changes and evolutions have come about since the founding days of the United Nations, nevertheless creating a peaceful world and providing better standards of living for all people of the world without regard to nationality, race or sex have remained the major and important objectives of this world organization. The antipeace efforts by imperialist and colonialist circles worldwide continue to bely the principles of the UN Charter. Not only do they endanger international peace and security, but they are also great obstacles on the road to victory by this world organization in the realization of the principles and aspirations of the UN Charter.

By contrast, the unrelenting role of the progressive and peace-loving forces of the world cannot be denied, nor can be their importance in the victory and success of this world organization in establishing and securing peace and international security.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], inspired by the sincere wishes of Afghanistan's toiling masses and in light of lofty and exalted values of the great April Revolution, has always defended and will defend the UN Charter and peace in the region, as well as in the world. The great April Revolution, as a victorious proletarian revolution and on the basis of its nature and character, is a defender of peace. Through peace it can bring to reality its goal of creating a prosperous society devoid of exploitation of man by man.

By taking advantage of this opportunity when peace-loving governments throughout the world are affirming and confirming their loyalty to and support for the principles of the UN Charter, I wish to reaffirm the views of the people of Afghanistan and those of the government of the DRA regarding the objectives and aims of the UN Charter in the creation of a peaceful world--a world in which all human rights and dignities are respected without discrimination or exploitation.

Part II

GF240854 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 23 Oct 79 GF

[Text] With the victory of the great April Revolution under the leadership of the PDPA, the forerunner of the country's working class, and through the transfer of political power from exploiters to the exploited, vast opportunities have been provided for the people of Afghanistan to enjoy democratic rights and liberties.

Taking into consideration the historic 16 September resolution of the extraordinary plenum of the PDRA Central Committee, the DRA sincerely and seriously decided to practice the slogan of "immunity, legality and justice" and to provide the necessary means for its implementation for the benefit of people of Afghanistan. Acceptance of such a sincere and clearcut commitment before the people of Afghanistan and the constructive steps and revolutionary actions launched since the dawn of the victory of the great April Revolution by the Khalqi government to wipe out and completely eliminate feudalistic relations, as well as all the great possibilities created for active and many-sided participation by workers, peasants and other toilers of Afghanistan in their country's political arena, are in accordance with the [word indistinct] of the member nations based on the UN Charter in providing equal rights and all economic and social opportunities for their people.

It is a cause of concern that, 34 years after the founding of this world organization, there are still certain people and territories under foreign domination and influence that have not gained their lawful right to

determine their own destiny and freedom. Imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and racism, including Zionism, through their antipeace efforts continue to increase world tension, which in itself is the major factor in the arms race. The arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, whose flames are being fanned by imperialism and affiliated circles, is endangering international peace and security.

I hope that an honest and sincere agreement on SALT II, which is considered a diplomatic victory for peace, and the peace initiatives by peace-loving countries for a voluntary reduction in military forces will receive an affirmative response and reciprocal action by other superpowers with nuclear arms. Thus, we can all take positive steps toward development and [word indistinct] projects to attain total and general disarmament and realize the goals of the UN Charter.

Contrary to the principles of the UN Charter, imperialism, international reaction and expansionist forces are actively and shamelessly continuing to meddle in the internal affairs of certain countries whose peoples have determined their own political and economic systems. The goals and aims of these circles are to block liberation- and independence-seeking movements of these peoples and to stop the victory of the democratic and progressive forces in the world.

In celebrating the anniversary of the United Nations, we are indeed celebrating international peace as well. I hope that the world community, by adopting comprehensive resolutions and effective programs, will take effective steps to protect the rights of children, who are the future architects of our world, and by providing the necessary means of education can bring about peace and tranquillity for the children of this world.

Once again, on this important day, I express my congratulations to all peace-loving and progressive peoples and forces in the world and convey the sincere wishes of the people and government of the DRA for the victory of peace, democracy and social progress in the world.

CSO: 4906

EGYPT

TRIAL OF SYRIAN SABOTEUR IN CAIRO

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Nov 79 p 1

[Article by 'Ala' Rif'at]

[Text] This coming Wednesday [i.e., 7 November] the trial of Capt Salim Joseph, agent of Syrian intelligence, begins before the Supreme State Security Court in Cairo. The Syrian intelligence agent admitted that he blew up the office of MISRAIR in Nicosia and came to Cairo in an attempt to blow up tourist locales, places of popular gatherings and government buildings. Ibrahim al-Dayah will not come before the court but stand before the court as the main witness for the prosecution.

Salim Joseph had come to Cairo this past April with a quantity of Soviet-made T.N.T. with the intention of blowing up several places of popular gatherings or one of the police posts or an important and crowded government building for the purpose of frightening the people. The confessions and investigations reports indicate that the agent of the Syrian terroristic organization set up an explosive charge at the headquarters of MISRAIR in Nicosia. Moreover, it appears that the organization is responsible for the explosion of the explosive package at the al-'Atabah post office [located at the crowded al-'Atabah Square in Cairo], the explosion of a bomb parcel at the Sheraton Hotel [very close to Pres Sadat's residence in Giza] and a bomb at the Mena House Hotel [near the Pyramids] which was discovered before going off.

State security investigation had learned that a terroristic Syrian organization, the Syrian al-Sa'iqah organization which is subordinate to the Ba'th Party, was sending several of its agents to Cairo to set off explosions. The security authorities and Supreme State Security Investigations at the Cairo International Airport became suspicious of a Syrian, one Samih Najm, coming from Beirut this past 15 April. On searching his luggage they found in a secret pocket in one of his suitcases a quantity of Soviet-made T.N.T. along with detonators, likewise Soviet-made. On confronting him with this incriminating evidence, he admitted that his name was Capt Salim Joseph Sulayman;

that he was a member of the Syrian al-Sa'iqah organization; and that the organization had tasked him with setting off a bomb in the Sheraton or an Egyptian police post or any sensitive government utility. He also admitted setting off a bomb at the headquarters of MISRAIR in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Supreme State Security prosecution conducted the investigation and accused the agent of the terrorist organization of participation in a criminal agreement whose purpose was to commit the crime, by his agreement with the Syrian al-Sa'iqah organization which is subordinate to the Syrian Arab Republic, of destroying buildings and public property owned by the government with the intention of frightening the people and of using explosives for the purposes of political murder. In implementation of this agreement, he exploded a bomb at the headquarters of MISRAIR in Nicosia. Then he came to Cairo carrying a load of explosives which he received from the command of the Syrian organization. Moreover, he is accused of: corresponding with those who are working for the interest of a foreign power with the intention of injuring Egypt's political and economic position; corresponding and agreeing with the leadership of the Syrian terroristic organization to carry out a number of explosions in public buildings and tourist places to cause fear among the people and spread unrest among them, thus affecting the country's economic revenues from tourism and foreign investment. Moreover, he is accused of receiving money from the Syrian organization, as compensation for criminal acts in Nicosia and Cairo, with the intention of committing an act injurious to Egyptian national interests.

Moreover, the Egyptian authorities submitted, in his capacity as a foreigner, papers counterfeited with his knowledge so as to conceal his original identity, thus facilitating his entry into Egypt and residence there.

Wednesday, 7 November, has been set for trying him before the Supreme State Security Court under the chairmanship of justice Hakim Munir Salib and composed of Justices 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hukm and Ahmad Bakkar. Attending will be Muhsin Mabruk, deputy Supreme State Security prosecution in the secretariat, [along with] Ahmad Muhammad Ramadan and Ramadan Nassar.

[The Cairo daily Al-Jumhuriyah on 7 November reported the beginning of the trial that day.]

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Oct 79 p 6

[Article by Salah al-Hafnawi: "Initial Proposals on Amendment of Constitution; Multiplicity of Parties Is Basis of System; Consultative Council Consisting of 132 Members, With One-Third Appointed by President of Republic"]

[Text] The committee formed of the People's Assembly speaker and 17 assembly members to examine the principle of amending the constitution has prepared its report and distributed it to the assembly members so that they may present it to the masses for public debates before the final report is prepared and submitted to the People's Assembly in its first session after 'Id al-Adha holiday.

The committee, headed by Dr Sufi Abu-Talib, the People's Assembly speaker, states in its report that it has approved the principle of amending Articles 1, 2, 4, 5 and 77 of the constitution which pertain to the state system and the Islamic shari'a principles as a main source of legislation, to the state's economic basis, to the Arab Socialist Union and to the duration of the presidential term.

The committee also approved addition of the proposed provisions concerning the press authority and the creation and organization of a consultative council.

The committee rejected the principle of adding the provision concerning the consultative council's power to try the ministers for offenses they commit while performing their duty.

The initial draft of Article 2 approved by the committee states that Islam is the religion of the state, Arabic is its official language and the Islamic shari'a the main source of its legislation.

Multiplicity of Parties

Article 5 states that the political system of the Arab Republic of Egypt is based on the multiplicity of parties within the framework of the fundamental

components and principles of the Egyptian society as stated by the constitution and that the law shall regulate the parties.

Article 77 states that the duration of the presidential terms is 6 years beginning as of the date of the announcement of the referendum results. The president of the republic may be re-elected for other terms.

Consultative Council

The articles proposed to be included in the constitution provide for the manner in which the consultative council is to be formed and define this council's powers.

In accordance with Article 1, the consultative council is empowered to study and propose what it deems capable of preserving the principles of the 23 July and 15 May revolutions, of supporting national unity and social justice, of safeguarding the alliance of the people's working forces, the socialist gains, society's fundamental components and supreme values and the public rights, liberties and duties and of entrenching the democratic socialist system and expanding its spheres.

The law will define the council's other powers and the means that this council will use to preserve these principles.

The third article states that the consultative council is to be formed of a number of members determined by the law, provided that this number is no less than 132 members. Two-thirds of the members will be elected by general and direct secret ballot and the president of the republic will appoint the remaining one-third. The law will define the election districts for the consultative council, the number of the council members and the qualifications required to be possessed by both the elected and appointed members.

By-elections

The duration of the consultative council membership is 6 years. By-elections will be held every 3 years for one-half the number of the elected members. One-half the appointed members will also be renewed every 3 years. It is always permissible to reelect and reappoint a member whose term has ended.

In accordance with Article 7, it is not permissible to combine membership of both the People's Assembly and of the consultative council.

In accordance with Article 8, the prime minister, the ministers and other government officials are not accountable to the consultative council.

In accordance with Article 9, the president of the republic may make his statement on the state's general policy or any other statement before a joint session of the People's Assembly and the consultative council.

The president of the republic may also make any other statements he deems fit before the consultative council.

In accordance with Article 10, the prime minister and other cabinet members may make statements pertaining to the consultative council's jurisdiction before either the council or one of its committees.

Whenever the prime minister or the ministers request to speak before the consultative council or one of its committees, they shall be permitted to do so. The minister shall have no counted vote in the balloting, unless he is a council member.

Press Authority

Article 1 states that the people shall exercise their sovereignty in the sphere of the press in the manner demonstrated by the constitution and the law.

Article 2 states that the freedom of the press shall be guaranteed, that press censorship shall be banned and that it shall be prohibited to issue ultimatums to the press, to suspend it or to abolish it by administrative means. All this (shall be done) in accordance with the constitution and the law.

Article 3 states that the press shall carry out its message in serving society freely and independently through writing, publication and the other means of expression reflecting the tendencies of [the public] opinion and contributing toward forming and directing this opinion within the framework of the fundamental components of society, of preserving the public liberties, rights and duties and of respecting the sanctity of the citizen's private life. All this shall be done in accordance with the constitution and the law.

Article 4 states that the freedom of paper publication and ownership by public and private legal status persons and by political parties is guaranteed by the law.

People's Control

The ownership, financing and properties of the press shall be subject to the people's control in the manner demonstrated by the law and the constitution and in accordance with the conditions set by the law.

Article 5 states that journalists shall have the right to acquire reports and information.

Article 6 states that the press affairs shall be under the charge of a supreme council whose method of formation, powers and relations with the state authorities shall be defined by the law.

Article 7 states that the Supreme Press Council shall carry out its duties to strengthen the freedom of the press, to guarantee its independence, to assure preservation of society's fundamental components and to guarantee the safety of the national unity and the social peace in the manner demonstrated by the constitution and the law.

8494

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

ELECTIONS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNIONS POSTPONED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 79 p 6

[Article by Mas'ud al-Hinnawi: "Student Elections at 'Ayn Shams Postponed; Discussions on Role of Student Unions"]

[Text] It has been decided to postpone the student unions elections at 'Ayn Shams University until the 17th of the coming month of November instead of the beginning of the month and to introduce the open-day system at the university colleges to familiarize the students with the goal and role of the new unions according to the circumstances of each college.

This was stated by Dr Nasr al-Sayyid Nasr, the 'Ayn Shams University Vice President for Educational and Student Affairs, during his meeting yesterday with the counselors [ruwwad] of the unions and the committees and with the educational counselors of 'Ayn Shams University.

Dr Nasr said that postponement of the elections date will give the students a bigger opportunity to get acquainted with each other and elect the fittest.

Engineering Counselors

Dr Nasr also announced that Dr Muhsin 'Abd-al-Hamid Tawfiq of the Engineering College has been selected to be the general counselor of student activity at the university town and that the following have been selected counselors in the Engineering College:

Dr 'Abd-al-Hadi Husayn Husni as general counselor, Dr Ahmad Jad al-Mawla as counselor for the Family Committee, Dr Muhsin Sadiq Qindil as counselor of the Athletic Activity Committee, Dr Muhsin 'Abd-al-Hamid Tawfiq as counselor of the Cultural and Art Activity Committee, Dr 'Uthman Badr as counselor of the rover scouts [al-jawwalah] and public services and Dr 'Abd-alWahhab Abual-'Aynayn as counselor for social activities and trips.

Decree 265

The university vice president then explained presidential decree No 265 concerning the bylaws of the student unions and their executive bylaw,

saying that in accordance with this decree the student bylaws are considered a part of the general executive bylaws of the university law.

Some amendments have also been made on the articles of the executive bylaws concerning the structure of the student unions. The unions have thus been confined to the college union and the University Activity Coordination Council instead of the university union. The amendments also provide for organizing the general and periodic activities through the Higher Council of Universities instead of the republic's union.

Dr Nasr also said that there are amendments concerning financial spending, considering that the right to signing checks is now confined to a union counselor, to a council treasurer and to chairman of the youth welfare [committee] only. Some committees have been merged, such as the Cultural Activity Committee which has been merged with the Art Activity Committee and the Social Activity Committee which has been merged with the Trips Committee. Committees not existing before, such as the Family Committee, have been introduced.

8494
CSO: 4802

EGYPT

PROSECUTION OF DEFENDANTS IN 1977 RIOTS COMPLETED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Oct 79 p 1

[Article by 'Ala' Rizq: "Prosecution Completes Proceedings at Law in Major Communist Case; Defendants Formed Secret Organization to Topple Regime"]

[Text] The prosecution completed its proceedings at law in the major communist case yesterday. The Supreme State Security Court in Cairo decided to postpone the case until the fourth of next November for the defense to present its case. The prosecution asserted in its proceedings that the defendants formed an underground organization to overthrow the regime.

Ibrahim al-Hunaydi and Muhsin Mabruk, the supreme state security prosecution attorneys, presented the prosecution case, explaining charges brought against defendants addressed No 85 to No 176, the legal provisions penalizing these crimes and the evidence available to the interrogation against all the defendants.

Ibrahim al-Hunaydi, the prosecution attorney, dealt with the charges against defendants No 85 to No 122. These are the charges concerning the formation of an underground organization to overthrow the fundamental economic, social and political systems in Egypt. He said that the use of force and of illegal means was noticeable in this action and that the components of article 198 of the penal code are thus applicable against them. They have also committed the charges [sic] of calling for changing the fundamental principles of the constitution and that this is punishable by article 174 of the penal code.

Some of the defendants also committed the crime of overthrowing the regime by force [sic] by joining others in the incidents of the 1977 riots which are punishable by article 87 of the penal code. The prosecution dwelt on explaining in detail the legal bases of these crimes in its preceding presentation.

Material Evidence

The prosecution also dealt with the objective evidence available on these crimes, demonstrating the responsibility of each of the defendants separately.

Defendants No 85 to No 122 formed the Egyptian Communist Party as a party seeking to topple the fundamental systems in the country through opposing the legitimate authority, calling for the formation of alliances hostile to the government and instigating the masses against the government through secret pamphlets and other means of propaganda, including the mobilization of parties and demonstrations aimed at changing the government and imposing a communist system on the country. Numerous pamphlets calling for this end have been seized in the homes of some defendants. The investigations of the security men has also demonstrated these facts and the security men have attested to them in the investigations and before the court. These testimonies have shown the role performed by each of the defendants separately and his role in the underground organization. Some pamphlets bearing the names of AL-INTISAR [victory], KIFAH AL-SHA'B [people's struggle] AL-ARD WA AL-FALLAH [land and the peasant] and AL-WA'Y [Vigilance] and containing the secret party's principles, methods, means of action, goals and phased strategy were also seized. Moreover, printing machinery and equipment was seized in the homes of some of the defendants.

Muhsin Mabruk, the prosecution attorney, then took the floor and explained the crimes committed by defendants No 123 and No 176. He said evidence was gathered against some of the defendants when they were seen leading demonstrations and chanting slogans against the government. Moreover, handwritten and printed documents attacking the state's social, economic and political policies were also seized in the homes of some of the defendants, as well as some of the slogans that were raised in the demonstrations. Some of the defendants also instigated their colleagues at work to strike, stage demonstrations and raise slogans against the government. It has been proven that these defendants are well-known Marxist elements. Moreover, the investigations of the intelligence men have been in full agreement with the testimony of the prosecution witnesses in the case, thus confirming the crime of the defendants. Some of the defendants also instigated the demonstrators to burn and destroy a number of government installations and properties. One of the defendants has admitted writing a poem praising the riots and the demonstrations. A number of the defendants took part in symposiums attacking the government. Wall posters attacking the government and accusing it of following a policy of oppression and banishment have been seized in the homes of a number of the defendants.

The session was held under the chairmanship of Counselor Hakim Munir and with the membership of counselors 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hakam and Ahmad Bakkar. The session was also held in the presence of Yusuf Darraz, chairman of the supreme state security prosecution. Ahmad Ramadan and Ramadan Nassar were present as secretaries.

8494
CSO: 4802

EGYPT

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPECTED FUTURE LEADERS OF JOURNALISM PROVIDED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 79 p 8

[Article: "Future Leaderships of Egyptian Press; They Write and You Applaud Others"]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH presents today the future leaderships of the Egyptian press. We may call them the second line but they play in fact the primary role behind the curtains in every paper whereas the spotlights are focused on one bright star, namely the chief editor.

You may be reading the names of some of them for the first time. However, they are unknown soldiers whose fingerprints are evident in every line of a paper. They write thousands of articles that are published under the names of others.

In their pens lies the secret of the success of numerous brilliant journalists. They teach such a journalist his role, they apply to him the final touches and they hear the applause going for him alone.

At times they write editorials and they present big stories without divulging their names. They represent the dynamo that moves every paper. They also represent the ladder up and down whose steps many climb and descend.

Like movie stars, some of them may await the opportunity to shine like a leading star. Others may be content with the stable and unchanging assisting role of the number two star. Others may stay anonymous and unattracted by the light, regardless of how bright.

The future leaderships, contrary to the past leaderships, are all young elements that have stormed with field with both talent and education.

Let us allow the following lines to present all of them and may the dear reader permit us to include AL-JUMHURIYAH stars with them.

AL-AHRAM:

Zakariya Nil: AL-AHRAM's deputy chief editor and head of the Arab affairs.

He established contacts with the field of journalism while still a student at the Higher Teachers Institute and worked as AL-MISRI's civil status cases reporter in 1949.

In 1954, he moved to AL-AHRAM as its reporter at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

In 1962, he was appointed head of the Arab affairs section and attended all the Arab summit conferences.

He scored an international journalistic scoop when he reported exclusively the news of the Suez Canal nationalization and when he conducted an exclusive interview with Khrushchev in front of Khrushchev's car and when Khrushchev's guard almost shot him.

He is married and has five children.

Makram Muhammad Almad: AL-AHRAM's assistant chief editor. He was born in al-Minufiyah in 1935.

He joined AL-AHRAM as an editor after graduating from the philosophy department of the School of Arts in 1958.

He has worked in various editorial sections: Events, press reports, Arab affairs, central editorial secretary and then supervisor of the central editorial section.

He almost lost his life three times in the Yemen war and the 1967 war.

He is married and has three children: Ihab in the Police College, Amal in the School of Arts and Aminah in junior high school.

He believes that press coverage of local news is still lagging behind and says that AL-JUMHURIYAH has been in the lead in terms of interest in local news and terms of giving this news frontpage coverage.

Ra'id al-'Attar: AL-AHRAM assistant chief editor. He is 49. He graduated from the journalism department of the American University in 1953 and worked for the foreign wire services while still a student.

Upon graduation, he continued his work as reporter for the wire services at the presidency and the Revolution Council.

He also worked as general editorial secretary of AL-JUMHURIYAH and as deputy chief editor. He was a partner with Muhammad Subayh in founding Dar al-Ta'awun [Cooperation House] in which he stayed for 8 months.

He has won several press awards, including the Columbia University International Award.

He is married to a colleague in the profession and has a 7-year-old son, Muhammad, and two daughters, 'Izzah and Nelly.

Hamdi Fu'ad: AL-AHRAM assistant chief editor and head of the diplomatic section.

He was born in 1926 and graduated from the philosophy section of the School of Arts in 1947. He joined AL-ASAS [The Foundation] immediately upon his graduation. In the first day of his journalistic life, he changed his name from Uzuris Fu'ad to Hamdi Fu'ad.

At the end of 1949, he joined AL-AHRAM as a diplomatic editor. When AL-AKHBAR was published in 1952, Kamil al-Shinnawi selected him to work as a diplomatic editor of AL-AKHBAR and later of AKHBAR AL-YAWM and AKHIR SA'AH.

He again moved to AL-AHRAM in 1958. When he was promoted to assistant chief editor last year, he continued his work as (diplomatic editor).

His most important journalistic scoop was the report of the marriage of the former president of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, to Fathiyah.

He has written three books: "The Diplomatic War Between Egypt and Israel," "The Diplomatic Editor" and "Romania' Ceausescu and the Arabs." He has also written "With 'Abd-al-Nasir Outside the Borders" which is still under printing.

He is married to Huda Tawfiq, a diplomatic editor in AL-AHRAM, and they have two sons.

Muhammad Mustafa al-Baradi'i: Chairman of AL-AHRAM's news section.

He was born in Minuf and is 49 years old.

He graduated from the School of Arts in 1950 and immediately started his journalistic career in the evening AL-MASA' [The Evening] newspaper whose chief editor was Jalal al-Hamamisi.

He moved to AL-MISRI [The Egyptian] and covered the armed struggle battles in the Suez in 1951. He then left AL-MISRI and joined ROSE AL-YUSUF.

In 1955, he joined AL-AHRAM as an editor in the events section and then became its reporter at the Ministry of Education where he gets an exclusive report of the news of free education.

He remained reporter at the Ministry of Education until 1963 when he was appointed deputy chief of the news section. In 1978, he became the section head.

He has four children and he has refused to have any of them work in the field of journalism.

Sana' al-Bisi: Head of women's [affairs] section of AL-AHRAM.

She does not hesitate to mention her birthdate which is August 1937. She got her M.A. in arts, journalism section, in 1958. She learned on the hands of Mustafa and 'Ali Amin.

Mustafa Amin selected her to work in AKHBAR AL-YAWM when he discovered her early talents while she was still a student in the journalism section. She remained in AKHBAR AL-YAWM until 1964. During this period, she held the position of chief of the women's section, the editor of Chitchat section and editor of the Sweet Half section in AKHIR SA'AH.

When she joined AL-AHRAM, she headed the women's section, the daily column and the weekly page.

Her book "In the Open Air: has been published and she has another book "Him and Her," under printing.

She is married to Munir Kan'an, the technical adviser of AKHBAR AL-YAWM House, and they have one son.

AL-AKHBAR

Jalal Duwaydar: Deputy chief editor of AL-AKHBAR. He is 42 years old.

He graduated from the journalism section of the School of Arts in 1959.

His experience with journalism started when he was still a student in the Samalut secondary school. He was on a trip to Aswan and another train had a collision on the line. He photographed the accident, wrote an article on it and handed the material to the late Lutfi Hassunah. His report was published on the front page and AL-AKHBAR selected him as its reporter in Samalut.

Two years before graduating, he was appointed as AL-AKHBAR's university reporter and then as its reporter in the Ministry of Education. He was then appointed as the first aviation [could also mean air force] reporter in the Egyptian press. He was then reporter at the presidency and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He worked as a correspondent in Bonn for 18 months and was at the time the deputy chief of the news section. He was later promoted to section chief.

In 1974, he became deputy chief editor.

He is proud of the series of articles that he wrote in 1963 from a hospital in Hiroshima, Japan, about the victims of the Hiroshima bomb 20 years after the bomb was dropped.

He is married and has Hatim, a 9-year-old son, and Hanan, a 6-year-old daughter.

Samir 'Abd-al-Qadir: AL-AKHBAR deputy chief editor, 45 years.

He acquired his M.A. in law in 1957.

He entered the field of journalism from al-Sa'idiyah School when he was editor of RA'Y AL-TALIB [Student Opinion], the school magazine. He continued his hobby at college when he published a semi-monthly magazine called ASRAR AL-JAMI'AH [university secrets] and then AL-'AHD AL-JADID [new era], also while at the university.

He was appointed in AKHBAR AL-YAWM while still a student at law school and worked as a reporter in the State Council. The reason for the appointment was an election campaign to spread election awareness among women.

Mustafa Amin asked him to write a press report on the first woman registering her name in the election lists. On this subject, he wrote his first (frontpage) article. The woman was a peasant from Bulaq. He then became the economic affairs editor and editor of Friday News column.

Ahmad al-Jundi: AL-AKHBAR assistant editor. He is 41 years.

He graduated from the journalism section of the School of Arts in 1961. He started his journalistic career in 1963 as editor in the press reports section of AL-AKHBAR. He then became the section deputy chief and later its chief.

He was appointed assistant chief editor in 1975. He heads the "To The Editor" section and the "Weekend" section of the Thursday edition.

He is proud of the series of articles he wrote on tax evasion.

He is married to Sakinah Fu'ad, an art critic in AL-IDHA'AH WA AL-TILIVISION [radio and television] magazine. They have three children: Halah, 'Amr and Muhammad.

Jalal 'Isa: AL-AKHBAR deputy chief editor.

He is 42 years old and was born in Malij Minufiyah.

He joined AL-AKHBAR in 1959 as editor in the judiciary section while still a student in law school and then became editor in the news section and the section chief when he was not 30 years old yet.

He then became deputy chief editor. He is also a member of the Journalists Union Council, a member in the Press Codification Committee and member of the National Democratic Party's Information Committee.

He was the first journalist to storm [enter] one of the rejectionist capitals--Baghdad--after the peace initiative. He attended the Arab lawyers conference there.

He is married and has two sons: Husam-al-Din, 4 years, and Ahmad, 2 years.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM

'Abd-al-Fattah al-Dib: AKBAR AL-YAWM deputy chief editor.

He is 45 years old and acquired his M.A. degree in law in 1954.

He started his journalistic career in 1962 as editor of the events section of AL-JIL [Generation] magazine, even though his income from his law profession had been manyfold the income he made at AKBAR AL-YAWM.

He has specialized since 1964 in the People's Assembly affairs. It is his opinion that larger space in the press should be devoted to the people's opinions and problems.

He has published a book entitled: "The Confessions of an Israeli Intelligence Officer."

He is married and his oldest daughter is in engineering school.

Ibrahim Sa'dah: AKBAR AL-YAWM deputy chief editor.

He is 41 years old and has a B.A. in political and economic sciences.

He started his journalistic career in 1958 as correspondent of AKBAR AL-YAWM in Switzerland. 'Ali Amin appointed him in AKBAR AL-YAWM in 1962 after he had written an article on the officers who staged the secessionist movement in Syria.

He worked in the press reports section of AL-AKBAR and started at the same time to write the "Last Column" in AKBAR AL-YAWM.

'Ali Amin then selected him to be chief editor of AKHIR LAHZAH [Last Moment], which had not been published yet and whose goal was to address the youth.

The journalistic campaigns of which he is proud include his [articles]: "The Higher Islamic Affairs Council, Al-Awqaf and The Gentleman's Complex."

He has published three books: "Years of Humiliation," "The Russians Are Coming" and "The Last Column."

He is married and has a 6-year-old daughter.

AKHIR SA'AH:

Wajdi Qindil: Editorial manager of AKHIR SA'AH.

He is 46 years old and was born in al-Shuhada', al-Minufiyah.

He acquired his M.A. degree in law in 1958.

He joined AL-JIL magazine at the outset of his journalistic career in 1952 and then moved to AKHIR SA'AH in 1953. He was its first military editor and then became editor of the Israeli political affairs [section] and then of the Arab affairs section. In 1958, he was appointed deputy chief editor of AKHIR SA'AH and then its editorial manager in 1977.

He conducted the first interview with the late President 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1952 and the interview was published in AL-JIL in December of that year. He is the first journalist who entered Algeria during the liberation war from the area of (Oujdah) on the Moroccan borders with the help of Houari Boumediene who was commander of the Algerian army in that area. He conducted the first interview with President 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif.

He is currently writing a book on the causes of the June 1967 defeat through the secrets revealed by the main commanders who participated in that war. He has also taken part in preparing Sayyid Mar'i's memoirs. He also acquired segments of Husni Mubarak's memoirs on the October war and published them in AKHIR SA'AH.

He is married and has one son, 'Umar, who is a student at the Cairo University School of Commerce.

Dr Rif'at Kamal: AKHIR SA'AH deputy chief editor. He is 44 years old and was born in Heliopolis.

He got his B.A. in dentistry in (1960).

In 1956, he joined AKHBAR AL-YAWM Establishment as a science editor. In 1959, he was selected to be editorial manager of TABIBAK AL-KHASS [your private doctor] and then became its chief editor.

He later returned to the position of deputy chief editor of AL-AKHBAR and chief of the science section of the establishment's papers and magazines. He was also entrusted with supervising and producing AKHIR SA'AH.

He is married and has two children: Kamal and Mirit [could also be Merit].

AL-JUMHURIYAH:

Muhammad Hasan al-Hayawan: AL-JUMHURIYAH assistant chief editor. He is 48 years old and was born in Faqus al Sharqiyah.

He got his M.A. degree in law in 1955.

He started his journalistic career as editor in the Middle East News Agency [MENA] and then moved to AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1959 where he became editor in its news section. He achieved prominence as industrial affairs editor.

In 1967, he was appointed deputy editorial manager and in 1970 he became deputy chief editor.

In March 1976, he was appointed assistant chief editor.

In 1977, he became member of the Board of Directors of Al-Tahrir Printing and Publishing House (AL-JUMHURIYAH).

'Adli Barsum: AL-JUMHURIYAH deputy chief editor.

He is 52 years old and was born in Malawi.

He acquired an M.S. degree in arts (social studies branch) in 1951.

He started his journalistic career in AL-MASA' newspaper. He joined AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1964 and worked in its foreign section and press reports section. He then became chief of the African Affairs section and visited most of the African countries.

He also worked as correspondent of AL-JUMHURIYAH in Germany for 3 years and was appointed deputy editorial manager in 1971.

He became deputy chief editor in 1976.

He was the first journalist in the world to enter the eastern front of the Angolan revolutionaries in 1967 and several European papers quoted his reports.

He has published a book entitled "Where To, Africa?"

Naji Qamhah: AL-JUMHURIYAH deputy chief editor. He is 39 years old and was born in al-Qalyubiyah.

He got his M.A. in Arabic in 1961 and his education and psychology diploma in 1962.

He joined AL-JUMHURIYAH immediately upon graduation and worked as editor in the review section and then as secretary of the news section and as chairman of the review section.

He was loaned to work in the Libyan papers but he terminated the loan after a short while.

He was appointed deputy chief editor in 1976.

Many of his religious and love short stories have been published and he is now preparing to publish his first collection of stories.

He is married and has a 10-year-old son, Ahmad.

Isma'il al-Shafi'i: AL-JUMHURIYAH deputy chief editor. He is 52 years old.

He started his journalistic career as editor in AKHBAR AL-YAWM in 1952 and then worked as reporter in the Revolution Command Council. He joined AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1956 as its reporter at the presidential office. He participated in covering most of the significant Arab events in that period and attended numerous international and Arab conferences. In 1955, he was a member of the first Egyptian press delegation to visit the PRC before the exchange of diplomatic relations with that country.

In 1975, he was appointed chairman of the news section and the following year he became deputy chief editor, in addition to his supervision of this section.

He is married.

Samir Rajab: Deputy chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH's weekly issue. He is 40 years old.

He started his journalistic career as editor in the youth page of AL-JUMHURIYAH after getting his M.A. in arts from Cairo University in 1959.

He was appointed AL-JUMHURIYAH airport reporter in 1961 and there he made his most important journalistic scoops, including the news of 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sarraj's arrival from Syria after the secession and the news of the arrival of Fathiyah Nkruma, the wife of the late president Nkruma, after the Ghana coup.

In 1968, he went on a scholarship to the GDR for a period of 6 months but he returned after 3 months to write several reports on the shortcomings of the communist system, despite the firm relations existing between Egypt and the communist countries at that time.

He is married and has two sons and a daughter.

Ra'fat al-Khayyat: AL-JUMHURIYAH deputy chief editor in charge of the arts and literature section. He is 54 years old and was born in Port Said.

He began his life in journalism in 1950 as editorial secretary of AL-MUSAWWAR. He then worked in AL-TAHRIR [Liberation] magazine, AL-IDHA'AH magazine and wrote in AL-JAMI' [Everybody] and AL-KATIB [the Writer] and then worked as managing editor of KARAWAN.

He has written several literary works, including a collection of short stories entitled "The Harem." He also wrote the book: "Our Socialism in the Sphere of Application." He has also translated Agatha Christie's "A Witness for the Prosecution" and Alberto Moravia's ("The Adolescent Girls").

He produced numerous radio programs in the 1950's and then devoted his time to write for radio and television. His best-known works include the Immortal Nile programs, A Writer and A Story and Where Is The Mistake?

He is married and has two sons: Hisham in medical school and 'Amr in the School of Theatrical Arts.

Muhammad Abu-al-Hadid: Deputy chief editor and the supervisor in charge of Free Opinions and With the People page.

He is 35 years old and was born in al-Jizah Governorate.

He has his B.A. in political science from Cairo University. He started his journalistic activity while still a student when he sent a message to With the People section--a section which he came to head after his appointment in AL-JUMHURIYAH.

Immediately upon graduating, he worked as an editor in the General Information Authority and then joined AL-JUMHURIYAH. He was appointed deputy chief editor in 1977 while only 33 years old. He thus became the youngest deputy chief editor in all three papers [AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH].

He is married and has two children: Walid (6 years) and Amirah (3 years).

AL-MASA' [The Evening]:

Zayd Mahmud Sharif: Executive chief Editor of AL-MASA'. He got his (B.O.C.) from London University in 1943 and worked as first officer in the maritime fleet for 5 years.

He abandoned the sea and joined the American University in Cairo and could not complete his studies in it for political reasons.

He started his journalistic career in 1951 as diplomatic editor in AL-BALACH [Eloquence] newspaper and also worked as reporter of Reuters, the United Press and the AFP.

He joined AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1953 and then moved to AL-SHA'B [The People] newspaper and from there to AL-MASA' as editor of its Arab affairs section and later as head of the news section.

He is married and has seven children.

Rashid al-Laythi: Managing editor of AL-MASA'.

He is 45 years old and was born in Alexandria.

He got his B.A. in Arabic from al-Azhar University in 1957 and his M.A. in education and psychology in 1958.

He started his career in journalism in 1955 in AL-IDHA'AH WA AL-TILIVISION magazine as an examiner [muraji'] and then worked in the press reports section and later became editorial secretary.

He joined AL-JUMHURIYAH in 1964 and became editorial secretary of its weekly edition. He was then appointed managing director.

In 1965, he moved to AL-MASA' as head of the [court] cases and incidents section and was then appointed deputy managing editor.

AL-MUSAWWAR:

Ibrahim al-Ba'thi: Managing editor of AL-MUSAWWAR.

He is 53 years old.

He got his diploma in journalism from the Sorbonne University in Paris in 1952.

He started his journalistic career in AL-BA'TH magazine which was issued by Dr Muhammad Mandur. He then worked in AL-BALAGH, AL-WAFD AL-MISRI and MUSAMARAT AL-JAYB. He also worked as editorial secretary of AL-MU'ARADAH [Opposition] which was issued by Fathi al-Ramli. He then worked as editor in AKHBAR AL-YAWM and as chief editor of the weekly AL-NIDA' newspaper.

He has worked in al-Hilal House since 1958.

He has published several books, including: "Contemporary Arab Figures" and "Contemporary Islamic Figures" and a novel entitled "Tears of Blood."

He is married and has six children: Three sons and three daughters. Two of his sons work in the press: Ahmad 'Ismat in AL-AHRAM and Muhammad Tharwat in ROSE AL-YUSUF.

Fumil Labib: Managing editor of AL-MUSAWWAR.

He started his journalistic career in 1947 in ROSE AL-YUSUF where he worked for 20 months when he was only 17 years old and a student in law school.

In 1949, he worked as editor in al-Hilal House when he was a trainee in law. He abandoned the law practice after only 21 days and devoted his full time to journalism.

He was appointed AL-MUSAWWAR editorial secretary in 1955 and was the youngest person to ever occupy this position. He left his post after one year to work as AL-MUSAWWAR's reporter at the presidential office and in the armed forces in 1956.

He was appointed AL-MUSAWWAR managing editor in 1970.

He is married to Janet Faraj, the television announcer. They have two children: Dina, 11 years, and Ayman, 8 years.

Ahmad Sayyid Abu-Kaff: Editorial secretary of AL-MUSAWWAR.

He is 45 years old.

He got his M.A. in arts, history section, in 1957 and ranked first in the batch that graduated with him. He turned to journalism and worked as editorial secretary of AL-HILAL from 1958 until 1967 when he was transferred to AL-MUSAWWAR in which he has been working since then.

He has numerous writings, including "The Jews and the Zionist Movement in Egypt," "The Prophet's Family in Egypt," "Eminent Figures of Islamic Sufism" and "The Pioneers of Journalism in the United States."

He is married and has two children: Dalya, 7 years, and Muhammad, 4 years.

AL-KAWAKIB [The Stars]:

Taha Qabil: Managing editor of AL-KAWAKIB magazine.

He is 45 years old and was born in eastern al-'Aziziyah.

He got his M.S. in sciences from Cairo University in 1957 and worked as a teacher for 20 days only and then turned to journalism.

He worked as editor in AL-KAWAKIB until 1971 when he became editorial secretary. Six months later he was promoted to managing editor.

He is married to his colleague 'A'ishah Salih, an editor in AL-KAWAKIB, and they have one son, 10-year-old 'Amr.

Yusuf Fikiri: AL-KAWAKIB managing editor.

He started his journalistic career in AL-KUTLAH newspaper in 1948 when he was still a student taking a special journalism course at the British Institute.

In 1950, he joined the magazine KALIMAH WA NUSS which was issued by Ma'mun al-Shinnawi.

His first regular job in journalism was in AL-JUMHUR AL-MISRI magazine. After the 23 July revolution, he worked in the evening AL-QAHIRAH newspaper until 1959 when he moved to al-Hilal House and took the position of deputy chief editor of AL-ITHNAYN WA AL-DUNYA and then the position of deputy managing editor of AL-MUSAWWAR. He was appointed managing editor of AL-KAWAKIB in 1971.

His most important journalistic scoop was a report on four old ships sold to the naval forces in 1951 by an Egyptianized foreigner called Albert Sa'b.

Deputy 'Aziz Fahmi questioned the government on the ships.

Mustafa Nasrat Pasha, the minister of war, denied the press report.

Yusuf Fikri was charged and the only thing that saved him was the fact that the four ships sank in the Suez Canal.

ROSE AL-YUSUF:

'Adli Fahim: Deputy chief editor and the technical supervisor of ROSE AL-YUSUF. He is 52 years old.

He has a B.A. in fine arts--photography division--and a B.A. from the Theatrical Arts Institute--art critic section.

He started his journalistic career in 1948 as an amateur (caricaturist) in AL-NIDA' magazine, SAWT AL-UMMAH newspaper and AL-QISSAH magazine.

After graduation, he taught for 3 years. His wish was to become an artist or a stage producer but turned instead toward journalism strongly.

Through his work as a journalist, he started writing novels and his works include: "The Bill, Miss," "A Father's Papers" and "A Widow in White Clothes."

He is currently writing a novel on Kamil al-Shinnawi's life.

HAWWA' [Eve]:

Rabi' Ghayth:

Managing editor of HAWWA' magazine.

He is 64 years old and was born in al-Daqahliyah.

He got his M.A. in arts from Cairo University in 1937, his French language diploma from the Sorbonne in 1938, his education and psychology diploma

from the Sorbonne in 1939 and his editing, translation and journalism diploma from the Cairo School of Arts in 1943.

He started his journalistic career in AL-MISRI newspaper. He then left for Sudan where he worked in SAWT AL-UMMAH newspaper and later returned to Egypt and joined al-Hilal House. He was appointed managing editor of the monthly HAWWA' AL-JADIDAH and was also supervisor of SAMIR magazine. He then devoted full time to the weekly HAWWA'.

He is married and has five daughters and one son.

AL-IDHA'AH:

Sami Muhammad: Deputy chief editor of AL-IDHA'AH WA AL-TILIVISION magazine. He holds a diploma in journalism from (Sheaven) University in England.

At the age of 16, he worked in MAJALLATI magazine which was issued by Ahmad al-Sawi Muhammad. His monthly salary was 2 pounds.

He then worked in AL-LATA'IF, AL-'ARUSAH and AL-FANN AL-SINAMA'I magazine. He later joined al-Hilal House where he was promoted from editor, to editorial secretary and then to managing editor of AL-MUSAWWAR.

He was delegated to work in BINA' AL-WATAN magazine and MENA [Middle East News Agency]. He also worked as adviser to Yusuf al-Siba'i, the martyred minister of culture and information.

He also became chief editor of the newspaper MISR which was the first partisan party issued by Egypt's Party after [legalization of] the multiplicity of parties.

His published works include: "Traces of 23 July Revolution," "The 1948 Battles of Palestine" and "Ten Glorious Days."

He is married and has no children.

AL-TA'AWUN AL-SIYASI [Political Cooperation]:

'Abbas al-Shahawi: Deputy chief editor.

He is 44 years old and was born in Disuq.

He got his M.A. in arts in 1960.

He was appointed in AL-JUMHURIYAH upon graduation and stayed in it until 1972. He was loaned to Libya until 1977. In the same year, he moved to AL-SIYASI.

He is married and has four daughters.

AL-FALLAHIN [Peasants]:

Ahmad Musaylihi: Managing editor of AL-TA'AWUN (AL-FALLAHIN) [as published] paper.

He is 37 years old and was born in eastern Kafr Saqr.

He got his M.A. degree in law in 1966, the higher diploma of the School of Commerce in 1970 and his information diploma in 1972.

He started his journalistic career in 1965 as editor in AL-FALLAHIN newspaper. He became editorial secretary in 1972 and managing editor in 1976.

He has published several books dealing with cooperative issues.

He is married and has Muhammad, 4 years, and Iman, one year.

AL-TALABAH [Students]:

Khayriyah Darwish: Deputy chief editor of AL-TALABAH, published by al-Ta'awun House.

She got her M.A. in arts in 1959.

She started her journalistic career in 1960 in AL-FALLAHIN newspaper and then in AL-'UMMAL [workers] newspaper.

She was appointed managing editor of AL-SIYASI in 1971 and deputy chief editor of AL-TALABAH in 1975.

She believes that the new generation of journalists must be given an opportunity.

She is married and has two daughters.

MENA [Middle East News Agency]:

Najib al-Badri: MENA's managing editor of news.

He graduated from the School of Arts, archeology section, in 1958. For a whole year, he continued to refuse to work in archeology [department] and was then able to join MENA as news editor. He managed the agency's various offices in the Arab area.

He is married and has four children: Inas in the School of Arts, Khalid in the School of Commerce, Hazim in the secondary school and Aminah in the elementary school.

Husayn al-Shami: MENA's managing editor and planning director.

He graduated from the School of Arts, Arabic language section, in 1958 and then got a diploma in Islamic studies, a diploma from the Information Institute and a professor's degree [sic] in journalism from Boston University in the United States.

He took part in the international conference held in New York to discuss the creation of a multi-national news agency for the Arab world and the developing countries.

He demands that one-half the disciplines given at the Information College be taught in either English or French.

He is married and has Sahar, a daughter studying in the School of Commerce, and Muhammad, a son in the secondary school.

Muhammad Munir Mashur: MENA's manager of illustrated press reports and research.

He is 45 years old.

He started his career as trainee editor upon graduating from the School of Arts in 1955.

He asserts that MENA covers all international markets with news and reports and that it is competing with the international agencies, even though it is young in age compared to these agencies.

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CSO: 4802

EGYPT

ALEXANDRIA LOCAL COUNCIL OPPOSES PROPOSED LOCATION FOR NUCLEAR POWER STATION

LD141359 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 3 Nov 79 p 4 LD

['Abd al-Wahhab Mursi inquiry: "Why Did the Alexandria Governor Say 'No' to the Sidi Karir Nuclear Station?"]

[Excerpts] The Alexandria Local Council has unanimously adopted a decision recommending that the first nuclear power station not be built at the proposed site in Sidi Karir area, some 30 km west of Alexandria. The decision has drawn strong reaction from the Electricity Ministry, the nuclear power stations authority and the atomic energy authority.

These quarters have announced that failure to build the nuclear station in Sidi Karir would obstruct the whole Egyptian nuclear program for 3 years and this could trigger an energy crisis and entail an annual loss of \$100 million for Egypt.

Moreover, the minister of petroleum has stated that the cancelation of the nuclear program would cost Egypt \$3 billion annually, [as published] being the cost of the mazut we shall have to import to operate conventional thermal stations for generating electricity instead of the nuclear stations.

The Alexandria Local Council, however, persisted in its stand, Alexandria Governor Dr Fu'ad Hilmi met with President Anwar al-Sadat and presented the council's decision to him.

I asked the governor of Alexandria: What is the reason which made the local council make this decision, now that the Electricity Ministry has completed the preparation of the national program for nuclear power stations, designating Sidi Karir for the first nuclear station in the program?

The governor said: The people of Alexandria were not happy about the establishment of a nuclear station in Sidi Karir area although they had no opportunity to express their feelings. However, when the incident involving the nuclear power station at Three Mile Island in the American state of Pennsylvania occurred the situation changed and the people could not keep quiet any longer. An extensive campaign was launched to collect the signatures of the inhabitants on a petition calling for the selection of another

site for the station instead of Sidi Karir. The campaign was led by the Alexandria women organization.

The governorates local council, in its capacity as the representative of the Alexandria people, unanimously issued a decision to submit a recommendation to President Anwar al-Sadat that the selection of Sidi Karir as a site for the nuclear station be reconsidered.

The wish of the inhabitants and the local council's decision were communicated to the president during the meeting which was held for this purpose. I explained to the president that I was not against Egypt entering the nuclear power age. On the contrary, my being a scientist and a former university professor, I support the use of nuclear energy for generating electricity in Egypt, but such a major step should be based on an elaborate and meticulous study in order to avert the dangers that might arise one day as has happened in the United States recently.

I asked the governor: The proposed station to be established in Sidi Karir will have an output of 600 megawatts which, combined with the power generated by the other nuclear, thermal and hydroelectric power stations, is necessary to meet Egypt's electric power requirements up to year 2000. Failure to establish the first nuclear power station in Sidi Karir would deprive us of big percentage of the energy required for agricultural, social and industrial development projects.

The governor said: We were not satisfied by objecting to the establishment of a nuclear station in Sidi Karir but we also presented an alternative solution. We are now building a thermoelectric generating plant in Abu Qir, which will work on the natural gas discovered there and which will have an output of 600 megawatts--the same output as that of the nuclear station. Furthermore, we are now negotiating with a friendly state which has promised to give us a loan for the establishment of a second electricity generating plant which will operate on natural gas and which is expected to be set up in Ad-Dakhilah area. The output of this plant will also be 600 megawatts.

In other words, Alexandria will have two thermoelectric plants that will operate on natural gas and generate 1,200 megawatts. We in Alexandria will not consume more than 300 megawatts and the surplus megawatts will be fed into the republic's electricity grid together with the electricity generated at the high dam.

All this will take place without exposing ourselves to the dangers of pollution and other harms that arise from the establishment of a nuclear station in Sidi Karir.

On the other hand, do you know how much the establishment of a nuclear station will cost? It will cost \$1.2 billion and will take 7 years at least to build whereas the gas-operated station will not cost more than \$300 million and will take about 2 years to build and will give us the same electricity output.

EGYPT

BRIEFS

MINISTER FOR RADIO, TELEVISION--President Anwar al-Sadat has issued a decision assigning Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Mansur Hasan as minister in charge of radio and television affairs. [Text]
[LD130919 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Oct 79 p 1 LD]

CSO: 4802

IRAN

SHAH'S TRIP TO U.S. BELIEVED MEDICALLY UNNECESSARY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Oct 79 p 32-A

/Text/ Doctor Victor Manuel Santander, who is attending Mohamed Reza Pahlevi here, declared yesterday that the former shah of Iran never was in danger and he is not now either. The surgical operation he underwent was to remove his gallbladder and has nothing to do with his cancerous condition, which was discovered and has been treated the last 6 years /sic/. There is no clinical reason why his stay in the United States should last more than 3 weeks.

The endocrinologist emphasized that US doctors' attacks of Mexican medicine "only have political purposes," since the overthrown shah's current problem has no connection with the lymphoma which he is suffering from.

He observed that the statements that, if Reza Pahlevi had not been transferred to New York for treatment, he would have died, are unethical and racist and besides have political overtones.

He added Mexico has excellent surgeons specializing in the gallbladder and his hospitalization in New York was only for security reasons.

Regarding the former Iranian ruler's controlled cancer, he assured that it was diagnosed 6 months ago and has been treated since then with chemotherapy, substances which operate in the blood to destroy tumors; among others, he explained, nitrogenous mustards.

Santander maintained that this type of cancer can be controlled by chemotherapy and does not require surgical operation or hospitalization, but only periodic treatment.

He pointed out that his present illness was diagnosed in Mexico and he was not hospitalized here, because there is no hospital in Mexico which could guarantee him complete security against Moslem terrorist attacks.

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CSO: 4410

42

IRAN

CHRONICLE OF ORGANIZED POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Mojahedin Khalq's Statement

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpts] In a statement, the National Movement of Mojahedin has announced the end of protecting its headquarters by supporters. The statement indicates that the support of sympathizers of the organization is considered an effort in defending the goals, doctrines and values of revolutionary monotheism and not defending a building.

Another part of the statement indicates: "Now that after 5 days and nights you have created interesting scenes of unity and sacrifice with revolutionary patience and difficulties, this gives us power and energy. In the end it has been mentioned that experience has shown that the true defenders and the most genuine supporters of Mojahedin and, in reality, any revolutionary force are the students, workers and other fighting forces from the people."

Five Political Organizations

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpts] Five political movement organizations have issued a statement on the occasion of Qods Day marking their unity with the Palestinian nation and announcing their participation in the ceremonies. These organizations are the Revolutionary Movement of Iran's Moslem People, The Islamic Council Organization, The Movement of Fighting Moslems, and Iran's Mojahedin Khalq Organization.

Statement by Moslem Party

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] On the occasion of Qods Day (Jerusalem), the Islamic Republic Party of Iran's Moslem People issued a statement announcing its participation on this holy day.

A part of the statement indicates that celebrating Qods Day is not only for considering Jerusalem, the first Kiblah (direction to which Mohammadans turn in praying), a holy land which has come under the anger of Zionism, but also for defending the rights of the oppressed. It is a duty from the viewpoint of unity and coordination of all of the risen deprived in the world against the domination of Zionism. This is a hopeful step.

Statement by Malek Ashtar Group

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In a statement, the Malek Ashtar Monotheism Organization has announced that it will participate in the parade on Qods Day. The statement is as follows:

"In the name of God, like other Moslem fighters throughout the world, by the order of the revolutionary leader, Imam Khomeyni, the Malek Ashtar Monotheism Organization honors Qods Day and participates in the parade on Friday. We ask all the Moslem revolutionary forces and the honorable people of Iran to help us in this public movement by the order of the revolutionary leader to once again announce our unity and support of the poor nations especially the people of Palestine.

Islamic Revolutionary Mojaheds

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In statement No 30 issued by the organization of Islamic Revolutionary Mojaheds, all of the fellow citizens have been warned not to allow imperialist and Zionist agents to make conspiracies by provoking them. In their statement, they have asked the Iranian people to allow the main elements selected by Imam Khomeyni; that is, the government, revolutionary court, Pasdaran Corps (The Guards) and the committees to take care of various problems. The people have been asked to remain cool and have revolutionary patience.

Anniversary of Fatemeh Amini's Death

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] On the anniversary of Fatemeh Amini's death, a ceremony will be held at Mashhad University Mosque tonight. Fatemeh Amini who was a member of the Mojahedin Khalq Organization (People's Mojahedin Organization) died on 25 Mordad 1354 (15 August 1975) under the torture of SAVAK executioners. Fatemeh Amini resisted the most severe tortures from the middle of Isfand, 1353 to Mordad, 1354 (20 February-20 March 1974 to 23 July-31 August 1975) and finally she sacrificed her life for her belief and had the honor of suffering martyrdom in God's way.

Open Letter to Prime Minister

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpts] The executive committee of the Iranian Society of Human Rights and Freedom has written a letter to Prime Minister, Bazargan on the events which took place in the recent week. The letter indicates:

"About 2 years ago, together with some other supporters of human rights--some of whom are now participating in the government--you established the Iranian Society of Defending Freedom and Human Rights.

"The efforts of this society was based on providing individual and social rights and freedoms for the people of Iran according to world Declaration of Human Rights and international agreements on political and civil rights, as well as fighting against any threat aggression to human rights. The continuous struggles and revealings of this society in the former regime played an important role in the revolution's victory.

"Unfortunately, recent events in the country indicate aggressions against individual and social rights and the continuous violation of human rights by the government and irresponsible groups and individuals."

The letter refers to the manner in which the elections of the Khebregan Assembly (Assembly of Experts) was held, the closing of publications and attacks on demonstrations.

Nationalization of Industries

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In a letter to Engineer Bazargan, the Organization of University Graduates has announced its readiness to cooperate by presenting studied plans that can be implemented.

The letter also gives a warning to the government on the actions that it has so far taken, especially on the nationalization of industries. The letter indicates: "Although the Ministry of Industries has announced that the purpose of nationalizing the industries is not state ownership and that after precise studies, the government will offer the nationalized industries to the public as shares, this looks to be impracticable, because offering of the shares to the public will be faced with failure and the government will be bound to operate and provide the costs of such industries.

Other parts of the letter refers to the desperate need of the industries for experienced managers, the weakening of motivation for progress and expansion and the reduction of production in the future. The letter also warns about inflation in the near future.

Establishment of Homafar Mojahed Organization

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In a statement, the Organization of Mojahed Homafars (Air Force Technicians) has announced its establishment.

The statement refers to the responsibility and mission of every individual in this organization in protecting and achieving the sacred goals of the revolution. It has been indicated that the organization has been established for the following goals:

1. Uniting the Homafars (air force officer-technicians) in protecting the achievements of the Islamic revolution in our country under the leadership of the grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni.
2. To help in the establishment of an Islamic army to assist and support the honorable nation of Iran and protect the borders, lives, reputation and properties.
3. Continuous fighting with antirevolutionaries and the enemies of Iran and Islam and eastern and western colonialists who always try to paralyze the splendid revolution of our nation.
4. To help in the reconstruction and improvement of affairs in the country by overall participation in the "construction Jihad" and to help and support the poor in the society.

National Democratic Front Charges

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In a letter to the public prosecutor of Tehran, the executive board of Iran's National Democratic Front has filed charges against the government and all of the responsible authorities by explaining the events which took place on Sunday 12 August (21 Mordad) in Tehran which resulted in the death and injury of 400 men and women. It has been indicated that the government and the authorities were informed of the demonstrations from days in advance.

Proposed Islamic Front for Poor

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In a statement, the Islamic Republic Party has invited all of the brother groups and parties to participate in the establishment of an Islamic Front for the Poor.

The statement is as follows:

In the name of God,

Following negotiations held with brother groups and in giving an immediate response upon the Imam's invitation to the events, we hereby propose to all Islamic groups with whom we had participated in public programs to participate in the establishment of an Islamic Front for the Poor. We also invite all Moslem fighting groups and individuals to cooperate in the establishment of this general Islamic Front and make a firm line in the victorious Islamic revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. Seeking God's guidance and success.

(Signed by the Islamic Republic Party; Telephone number 313355)

Doctors, Nurses Support Mojahedin Khalq

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] The doctors, nurses, employees, workers, and students of Firuzgar Medical Center have issued a statement asking for abatement of nuisance for the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran. The statement indicates:

"In the name of freedom and in supporting the goals of the hero Mojaheds (fighters of holy war), we hereby condemn any nuisance made to the People's Mojahedin and ask the government to take action in abatement of nuisance for these revolutionary children of the Moslem people decisively and promptly.

Tehran Teachers' Statement

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] In a statement, the Organization of Tehran's Vanguard Teachers has issued a statement referring to the attacks made on the headquarters of the political groups and their sympathizers and other organizations. They have raised the following question and asked the struggling fellow citizens:

"Who are those behind the scene who are organizing groups for bringing pressure and attacking the revolutionary forces? Who are those who confirm the chaos, monopolism, and all the pressures by pretending to be impartial and under the excuse of not having power or sufficient authority?"

The statement refers to the circumstances of occupying the vanguard teachers' office and asks: "What had the vanguard teachers done that their offices were occupied? Who had filed charges against them?" From thousands of readers "students and teachers," who had complained against them.

In the end, the vanguard teachers emphasized that despite such pressures they would continue their struggles against the world-eater imperialism and its reactionary agents.

Moslem Teachers Movement

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpts] In a statement, the Moslem Teachers' Movement has announced its sympathy with the oppressed nation of Palestine on the universal Qods Day and its support from their continuous struggle (with shedding tears of blood) against U.S. Imperialism and Zionism and have demanded the necessity for the unity of the poor Moslem nations in the world.

In the statement, the Moslem Teachers Movement has demanded the neutralization of all reactionary conspiracies which cause conflicts in the people's united lines and weaken the revolution. The statement indicates that Iran's revolution should continue in an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist direction.

Tehran Industrial University Demands

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12

[Excerpt] The Coordination Council of the Industrial University has issued a statement objecting for the failure to show decisiveness toward anti-revolutionaries in the past 6 months. The members of the Scientific Board, the employees and students of the university have announced their readiness for the achievement of the goals of Iran's Islamic revolution,

9156
CSO: 4906

IRAN

KORDESTAN SITUATION VIEWED BY LEADERS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Sep 79 p 5

[Text] Mohammad Rashid Shakiba, governor of Kordestan, announced in an interview with a KEYHAN reporter that Kordestan was 99 percent pacified and construction of the Sanandaj dam and a 120 km road had started a few days before and is going forward quickly.

He also said in regard to health and medicine that the city of Sanandaj had been paralyzed and the people of Sanandaj were very concerned over the operation of two Red Lion and Sun hospitals there.

Mohammad Rashid Shakiba added in connection with medical services that the director general of health for Kordestan had announced that they had no doctors or specialists in pediatrics, gynecology, internal medicine, nervous disorders, lungs, mental problems, radiology, heart, eye, ear, nose and throat, or technicians and nurses.

The governor of Kordestan told our reporter that when he came to Kordestan there were government programs in health and welfare which had started work but which were stopped after the outbreak of violence in the area. He said, "I occupied myself completely with trying to bring peace to the area so that I could carry out the government's projects that had stopped. A long period passed before security was restored as a result of the actions of the army and revolutionary guards. It is now about 8 days since work has started." He said in regard to the kinds of reconstruction projects that existed that they consisted of building roads between cities, rural development, home building, health services and efforts to prepare the Sanandaj dam and other projects to create employment offices for workers and educated youth. "We hope," he said, "to be successful with the help of God and the cooperation of friends from all classes." He added that building the Sanandaj-Marivan road had started and predicted that it would be finished in 2 years at the most. The road will be 120 km long. The problem of the Sanandaj dam has precedence because the people of Sanandaj have no water. Those responsible for the dam have promised that it be finished in less than a year and water will be available to people of the city.

Problem of Health

"I believe the government must not undertake projects without planning. The problem of health is a great burden to me and I had better explain it. For the entire population of Sanandaj we have three hospitals of which two are operated by the Red Lion and Sun and the other by Health. If people have problems with health or complaints about hospitals at least they can be happy to have the Lion and Sun hospitals. However, a short time ago two Lion and Sun hospitals of 160 beds were taken over by the Health Department and from that time they have deteriorated. My cries to improve the conditions of the hospitals have also not gotten anywhere. My surprise at this is because the ministry itself says that it is concerned with the situation and cannot meet the needs of the people. Who gave them permission to take over two operating health units and paralyze the city's health capacities?" He added, "Yesterday I talked with Dr Falah, director general of health, about this. He showed me a list which said that they were short 40 doctors. I was surprised to see this and wondered what the Health Department in this province had. It would be better if they accounted for what they do have and we could then be a little happier. During the 2 months of violence, and I could say during the worst periods, the government tried to meet the needs of the area. However, unfortunately I must say that the Lion and Sun had more responsibility to the people of the area. During the trouble if we asked for a surgeon they immediately sent one. We asked for medicine and they sent it. Anything we asked for from that organization we got. On behalf of the people I thank the officials of the Lion and Sun." Mohammad Rashid Shakiba alluded to the problems of employment in Sanandaj and other cities of the province and said, "At the moment we have nearly 400 workers and about 1,200 graduates and engineers unemployed. Every day about 2,000 workers came to the province office and shouted their complaints that they were out of work. I began to investigate and found that there were political groups paralyzing us. They had intentionally sent these people, a group of about 1,600, to the province office. They wanted to trap us in problems so that we could do nothing else and raise a wave of discontent. Subsequent investigation showed that only about 400 of these people out of the 2,000 were out of work and the others were agitators. It is said that at present count 1,200 educated youth are out of work. During the next few days I will talk with them and find out if they are out of work or whether some of them want to cause trouble. However, certainly if there are not 1,000 educated youths unemployed, there are certainly no fewer than 800." A question was asked as to what programs there are to employ these people and other workers.

The governor said, "Unfortunately, except in education, we have no place for them, but in the near future I think this problem will be solved because we have plans."

He added in connection with employment offices and jobs that in Sanandaj there are no factories except the tobacco plant connected with the Tobacco Association. "A thread spinning plant was built in Sanandaj with the cooperation of the previous regime but it has been closed for nearly 6 years. This factory could use 200 workers. A few days ago the officials of this factory said in the course of stating their problems that they would need a loan of 10 million tomans. I discussed the subject with the minister of industry and mines and asked him to study the situation and help the officials get the plant going."

In regard to agriculture and its encouragement, Shakabi said that the condition of agriculture in the area was also very bad. "For example," he said, "we have no means to repair agricultural machinery. No type of training is available for farmers to teach them to use tractors and other machines. We have no technicians and fertilizer has not gotten to the farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that in order to encourage agriculture it would buy farmers produce at good prices. Agricultural officials in charge of harvesting will buy wheat from farmers and store it in silos, but getting money to buy the wheat and other commodities requires the aid of the Ministry of Agriculture and is the same headache it was in the fallen regime. For example, a silo is 15 farhangs away from where the wheat is bought and the farmer must execute a sales order. These are sent to another ministry and it is nearly a month before a check is issued and in the farmer's hands. After 1 month's wait the farmer must give up his work and normal life and go to the city to get his money. The farmer spends the money he has gotten for his crop and has nothing left."

After describing the situation, the governor commented on the commissions from Tehran and Qom. He said that in addition to the prisoners we have other problems. "Every day a commission comes to this province. These commissions are supposed to know the situation here, but instead of making things better they create unhappiness and make things worse. I ask that the government make a detailed, reasonable plan for the province."

Relief Caravan

We had a brief opportunity to talk with Dr Haqgu, governor of west Azarbaijan. He said he was happy that the army had restored peace and security to the cities. He said, "in my opinion operations must begin in the secondary areas as soon as possible and clear the mountain places of the invaders and the whole area up to the border where they are still not willing to lay down their arms and accept the Imam's amnesty so that we can do our duty to our Kordesh brothers who are looking for reconstruction of the area. We understand this and are preparing practical plans for reconstruction, some of which have been put into operation already."

Dr Haqgu, in commenting on the subject of relief caravans to Piranshahr, said that because of propaganda from opponents of the revolution and the banned Democratic Party and the people have confused the Democratic Party with the Kordesh people. For this reason a few days ago we organized a relief caravan and informed the people over the radio that they could participate in this caravan for help and friendship for the people of Piranshahr. Unfortunately, some did not accept this and the aim we sought was not achieved.

"It would not have been this way except that the majority still did not want to differentiate between the Kordesh people and the Democratic Party. This feeling must be removed."

Dr Haqgu added after his talk, "in my opinion after the army's occupation of the cities other solutions will emerge and the compassion and blessedness of Islam will go forward. The people must be encouraged in giving help, friendship and brotherhood."

Dr Haqgu commented further on the caravan of friendship that, "we will not set up another caravan without more facilities and provisions than the last one. We hope that the people are aware that the hand of friendship and brotherhood must be extended to our countrymen and cooperate with us more fully."

Commander of 28th Sanandaj Division

Col Sepehr, commander of the 28th Division at Sanandaj, has a command post at Sanandaj and another where reports are centralized about the revolutionaries. The commander of the Kordestan area said that now the army's 28th Division at Sanandaj is master of the situation. "During the last 24 hours there had been some small incidents in Bistam, Marivan and other places but all of these were localized. In the vicinity of Bistam and Marivan 150 to 200 people of the Democratic Party were reported gathered. We went to the area immediately but they had fled. Tanks have come into the counterrevolutionary area and the well-known words of the rebels have not been realized. They are able to take significant actions only in slaughter and despair, taken only as a result of necessity and desperation."

Continuing, the commander said, "In my opinion the police and gendarmerie should occupy their posts as soon as possible and stay with the people. For example, in the past where we had a post of 10 people the number should now be increased to 30 to 50. The posts should have heavy weapons, some of which should be counterfire weapons. A strike force should be on alert so that in case of trouble it could attack by land and air. According to the information that I have, the posts are rapidly being put into a state of mobilization and between Saez and Sanandaj and at Saez posts are being mobilized with the help of the army and revolutionary guards and are capable

of facing any opposition. Only in the posts at Mirabad, Sarab, Gardanehkhaneh and Baneh can the gendarmerie carry out operations without help. Col Sepehr said that the police at Sazez and Baneh are also 100 percent on the job but in Sanandah they have not reached that state and the guards are controlling order and security for our police brothers."

He also said that the gendarmerie will be in control of the border areas in perhaps 20 or 30 days. "The counterrevolutionaries have destroyed everything. For example, in Baneh and Sardasht they destroyed gendarmerie units and even their posts. Not one untouched room remains. Even doors were smashed up. They destroyed everything. They also cut water and electricity in the area and to the posts. They burned and smashed power control centers. This is why we say 20 or 30 days."

Reason for Democratic Party Sympathy

Abu Sharif, operational commander of the revolutionary guards, commented on the reason for Kordesh sympathy for the dissolved Democratic Party. He said, "We all know that in previous times the residents of this area got no assistance and the tyrant regime tried to prevent trouble in the area by handing tribute to a limited number of people. As a result, most of the workers of the region had a pitiful life and were in the power of a limited group. During the revolution, counterrevolutionary activities took place and the supporters of Zionism and imperialism used this pitiful majority and forced them to cooperate by using empty, lying people and even threats. Some of these deceived people were killed. In my opinion, and I have come to know the difficulties and problems of the Kords, we must join hands with all organizations and bureaus who have contacts with the troublemakers in order to settle the problems of the Kordesh area. Our Kordesh and other brotherly countrymen must be assured and not deceived by the enemies of Islam. For centuries imperialism and Zionism have tried to spread differences in the ranks of Moslems and weaken us. They use the talk of differences between Shia and Sunni, Kord and Turk, so they were able to incite Moslems and thus profit from the enormous resources of the Moslem countries. I think that everyone, even in the farthest part of the country and other Moslem countries, understands the tricks and land grabbing of international imperialism and exploitation. We must strengthen our ranks by joining hands and build relations with all levels of the country."

Abu Sharif said in connection with the revolutionary guards and their bases on the border that according to national leaders the responsibility for protecting the border is the gendarmerie's, but in areas where the gendarmerie have not completed their bases the responsibility will remain with the revolutionary guards until our brothers of the gendarmerie have set up their posts. "I think that there are nearly 650 bases on the Iraq border, some of which are in a state of readiness. We have ourselves tried to close off entry and exit routes for counterrevolutionaries, transportation of smuggled goods, weapons and merchandise into our lands."

9448

CSO: 4906

IRAN

BRIEFS

MIHANDUSTAN PARTY LETTER--In an open letter to the government and the Revolutionary Council, the Mihandustan Party (Patriots Party) has asked that a group not be allowed to be anti-revolutionaries unwittingly. The party warns the government and the Revolutionary Council that there is a group which puts millions of farmers under pressure by making advance purchases and profiteering; the existence of such middlemen thus contributes to public dissatisfaction. In order to prevent such antirevolutionary actions, and thus eventually benefit the consumer, the party suggests: 1) Banning advance purchasing in the future and announcing the current purchases as void. The government should buy the agricultural products at a reasonable price; 2) All services and goods offered in the cities and villages should have price tags in order to facilitate identifying the profiteers. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS NOT TO DEMONSTRATE--Yesterday the five united groups of JONBESH (Movement), the Struggling Moslems, JAMA, SASH and the People's Mojahedin Organization, announced through their spokesman that they will not participate in the demonstrations that will be held today upon the invitation of the Democratic Front to protest suffocation. [Excerpt] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

NATIONAL FRONT REGRET--The National Front of Iran expressed its deep regret over the event which took place in Baluchestan which resulted in the death of a university teacher and some struggling youths. The spokesman of the National Front said: "The most important issue which is necessary today for the construction projects is providing security for the lives of officials and the devoted children of the revolution. We expect the government to take necessary decisions as soon as possible in prosecuting the guilty, so that the blood of the revolutionary martyrs would not be wasted. [Excerpt] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

SUPPORTING QODS DAY--The Palestine Cooperation Society has asked all of the parties and struggling groups to use all of their capabilities to protest the aggressions of Israel and her support by U.S. imperialism and to participate in the ceremonies held on Qods Day. [Excerpt] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC ESTABLISHMENT--The Organization of Women's Democratic Establishment in Iran has issued a statement announcing that it is starting its activities again. The women have been asked to participate in getting their rights along with the development of revolutionary achievements. [Excerpt] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

MARDOM PARTY ON ELECTIONS--In talks held with the party, Iran's Mardom Party confirmed the elections held for the constitutional assembly and indicated that under existing conditions the revolution's final victory depends on the devotion and sacrifice of committed and Moslem Mojaheds (Fighters of Holy War). The party points out that the success of the Islamic Republic Party has been merely due to religious relations and that if there has been some violations it was the result of individual prejudice and not party prejudice. The party has commented that the constitution should be taken into consideration out of the party framework at the Khebreghan Assembly [Assembly of Experts] and the goal should be in the direction of unity, as continuously advised by the revolutionary leader. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

MOVEMENT OF MOSLEM FIGHTERS--In a statement, the Movement of Moslem Fighters has indicated that the death of the martyrs of the Construction Jihad help the continuation of the revolution. The statement is as follows: "In the name of God, with the conspiracies of antirevolutionaries, the Mojahed (Fighters of Holy War) youth who had gone to the villages to help their brothers and sisters in response to the call of the revolutionary leader, shed their blood. The Mojahed brother, Eng Vali Allah Nik Bakht, who was a university teacher and member of the scientific board of Baluchestan University and one of the supporters of the Movement of Moslem Fighters strengthened the seed of our bloody revolution with his death. Vali Allah Nikbakht suffered martyrdom with humane and revolutionary commitment and by following the guidances of the revolutionary leader, Imam Khomeini. We congratulate the revolutionary leader, the Moslem nation and the families of the martyrs on his death. We will always honor his memory with the continuation of the revolution in the direction of a monotheistic society. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

IRANIAN SOCIETY OF COOPERATION WITH PALESTINE--Yesterday on the occasion of Qods Day (Jerusalem Day) the Iranian Society for Cooperation with Palestine issued a statement and invited all the struggling groups, societies and parties to use all of their capabilities in protesting to the aggressions of Zionist Israel, their supporters, imperialism and especially U.S. imperialism. The statement invites them to mobilize their capabilities in publishing, protesting and revealing Zionist plots and announce their cooperation with the hero nation of Palestine. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

TOHIDI PARTY WARNING--Tehran-PARS NEWS AGENCY--In a statement, the Tohidi Party (Monotheism Party) has referred to the events which took place in the university yesterday and has condemned provocations made by Zionism and

imperialism. The statement points out that Iran's Moslem nation will not allow the opportunists to make plots against the revolution. The Tohidi Party has warned the antirevolutionaries to repent and return to the arms of the Iranian nationa. [Text] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

MASSIVE PARTICIPATION--Following Imam Khomeyni's invitation to all Moslems to allocate 23 Ramazan (Friday, 17 August) for fighting against Zionism, the aggression of Israel in southern Lebanon and defending Jerusalem, the Moslem people are preparing themselves to participate in the ceremonies held on this day throughout the Islamic countries. The following groups and organizations have so far announced that they will participate by parading: the Joint Staff of Iran's Islamic Republic Army, the Central Council of NCOs and Personnel of Iran's Islamic Republic Police Department, the Islamic Society of Drivers, Municipality of District Five, the Islamic Society of Tehran's Municipality, the Joint Staff of Iran's Islamic Republic Army, the employees' Society of Iran's Central Bank, the Islamic Society of the Oil Industry Personnel, Vali 'Asr Fedayees, the Islamic Society of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Organization of Monotheist Defenders, the Islamic Society of the Agricultural Development Bank, the Deprived Movement, the Movement of Vanguard Moslems, the Islamic Society of (para) Medical School, the Islamic Society of Leyla Al Qadr Mosque, the Islamic Society of Finance Personnel, the Islamic Society of Employees of Regional Power, the Islamic Society of Employees of the Civil Service and Administrative Organization, Afghan workers residing in Iran, the Islamic Society of Employees of the Insurance Industry, the Islamic Society of National Defense Industries Organization, the Fedayees of Islam, Air Force Personnel of Iran's Islamic Republic, and the Islamic Society of the Personnel of KEYHAN, the Society of Production and Distribution of Cloths, the Students' Society, the Air Force Personnel and the Islamic Society of the Ministry of Justice. [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

FEDAYEE KHALQ STATEMENT--In the statement to the mass media on Tuesday, the Organization of Fedayee Khalq Guerrillas has referred to the attack made on the organization on 22-5-1358 (13 August 1979) and pointed out that the attack was made by instigated and unaware groups. The statement indicates that the attackers enjoyed the support of some of the committee members. The Fedayee Khalq Guerrillas believe that such actions are efforts to prepare the ground for civil war. The Fedayee Khalq Guerrillas have clearly announced that they had not participated in last Sunday's demonstrations, because they had already issued a statement on the closing of AYANDEGAN, and that there was no need for them to demonstrate. However, unfortunately, some of the press in the country find this organization responsible for the recent demonstrations and chaos. [Excerpts] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

HONORING SAMAD BEHRANGI--The independent center of teachers has prepared some programs honoring the anniversary of Samad Behrangi's death. Samad Behrangi was a true teacher, an honest writer, and teacher of children's

literature. The teachers in the capital city and all those interested in participating in the ceremonies have been invited to contact "Nashr" group in the afternoons from Wednesday 31st of Mordad to 7th of Shahrivar (22-29 August 1979) at the Teachers' Club (located at Bagh-e Shah, Ahmad Reza'yi Ave, formerly Kashan Ave) [Excerpt] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

POLITICAL PRISONERS' SOCIETY--In a statement addressed to all progressive forces--anti-imperialist and antidictatorship, the Political Prisoners Society (anti-imperialist and antidomestic reactionaries) have pointed out: "At present, there is a neurotic and provoking condition permeating the political atmosphere in our country to the benefit of imperialism. The current neurotic atmosphere is due to the offensive nature of the prejudiced and antidemocratic forces which may lead to chaos and prepare the grounds further for suffocation. Here, the religious clergy and leaders who are trusted by the people have an important duty--to put an end to this unfavorable situation with their guidance and intervention." [Excerpt] [Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 12] 9156

CSO: 4906

ISRAEL

AUTONOMY PLAN A YEAR AFTER CAMP DAVID ASSESSED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Sep 79 pp 13, 20

[Article: "Bleak Future for Implementation of Autonomy Plan"]

[Text] A year has elapsed since the signing of the Camp David Agreement at the White House. In Israel the festivity of a birthday celebration has been very restrained. It is not difficult to guess why. The public has granted its blessing to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty which was achieved about a year ago and which was one of the important results of the agreements of a year ago. As far as one can judge the public is not overly concerned about the withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. But the satisfaction felt over the peace with Egypt is but one side of the coin. It is in the nature of things for the public to accept as their proper due the good portion. On the other hand, that part of the Camp David Agreements which has not as yet reached a practical stage is a matter of deep concern to the majority and naturally to those who were critical of the Agreements from the very beginning.

The autonomy plan for the Arabs of Judea, Samaria and Gaza as formulated by the prime minister originally as a permanent solution to the Palestinian question was not acceptable to the Arab side. It is no wonder that the Egyptian president rejected it at the meeting in Ismailia. Even now it is difficult to understand Mr Begin's statement that he left that meeting in a very happy frame of mind.

In December of 1977 Menahem Begin's version of the autonomy plan was an obstacle in the advancement of peace between us and the Egyptians for three quarters of a year. This changed only after Mr. Begin agreed to change the character of the plan from a permanent solution to a temporary solution of 5 years' duration. Most of the Arabs ruled out the latter form as well. The Egyptian president found reasons to justify it and proceeded to press for it among the Egyptian and Arab public.

However, that agreement was to a large extent an agreement not to agree. The Israeli prime minister claims that the Camp David Agreement leaves an avenue open for the enforcement of Israeli sovereignty over Judea, Samaria

and the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian president using the same logic could claim that the Agreement prepares the way for a permanent solution of the Palestinian question in the direction of a greater measure of independence than they have enjoyed heretofore.

From the moment the Camp David Agreement was confirmed a struggle has been going on between Egypt (with the tacit support of the United States) and ourselves as to how to translate the legal language of the Agreement into practical steps; into the determination of methods of electing the administrative council to implement autonomy and what will be the range of its authority? The problematic nature of the autonomy plan is exposed. The brief dramatic hopes for its viability were dashed by the attendant acute complexities.

It is only natural that the Egyptians are trying to perceive the autonomy Mr Begin promised them as "full and complete." He prides himself on having invented the specific concept "full" in order to contradict the claims of American journalists that the autonomy would be "limited" and be of a narrow territorial nature. Is it for nothing that the Camp David Agreement specifically states that the autonomous body shall be called "an independent governing authority?" On the basis of their own constitutional experience the Americans believe that autonomy should include constitutional authority. Isn't that the norm for states like Illinois, Missouri and Connecticut?

Mr Begin never considered that his plan would be interpreted in this light. True he succeeded in effecting the inclusion of administrative council in quotes after the phrase 'independent governmental authority'. It was also stated in the Agreement and in a joint letter that the autonomy would be determined for the residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. There is no mention for whatever reason that in every municipality even in the State of Israel authority is retained by the residents within definite boundaries on the map and delineated by proper signs on the highways in the territory.

The Egyptians demand that voting rights for the election of the administrative council be accorded to the Arabs of East Jerusalem. Mr Begin fears that granting them this franchise would strike at the very basis of the annexation of East Jerusalem by the State of Israel. But he has no answer to the question. The Arabs of East Jerusalem are not Israeli citizens and as a result they cannot vote in our Knesset elections. Is it possible to leave them without any representation? Or should he agree to permit these Arabs to vote for the Jordanian Parliament when Rabat Amon will announce such elections?

Problems mount on top of problems. And as the negotiations are prolonged it becomes painfully clear that the autonomy concept is not a viable projection for the Palestinians. The Egyptian concept is as flawed as the "statehood authority" formulated by Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The "homeland" envisaged by Carter in his speech at Clinton in 1977 is equally nebulous. King Hussein's proposal to have the West Bank become a Palestinian province of the United Jordanian Kingdom is viewed by many with grave misgivings.

The concept of autonomy can be realized only if Israeli control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is assured with no time limitations. This option was excluded by the Camp Davis Agreements. The inducements were many to continue the negotiations in the hope that this creature called 'autonomy' would disappear. Perhaps we hoped we would succeed in persuading Egypt and the Americans to agree to a situation whereby a decisive choice by the Arabs in the territories could be indefinitely postponed. This of course would entail a continued Israeli military rule in the area. It would also incur heated opposition from Egypt and the United States.

I must confess, the idea of autonomy continues to strike me as an unfortunate concept. If only we could extricate ourselves from this morass I would be highly gratified. But how? Every one of our regimes starting with the one of July 1967 rejected the Jordanian option either on principle or with the argument that King Hussein is not ready to accept the well-known plan of Yigial Alon. The possibility of radically changing the situation is very meager. The plan to leap-frog over the PLO and the Palestinians and reach a direct understanding with the Jordanian king is more problematical than it ever was in the past.

It is not beyond the realm of the possible that Hussein will agree to represent the PLO at the UN meeting with the hope that he will be able to circumvent Yasir Arafat in the final stages of the contest. In much the same manner Arafat is confident of toppling Hussein. Judging from the situation today it is difficult to predict who will be the victor in this duplicitous competition. No matter what the outcome, Mr Menahem Begin is certain to direct his polemical arrows against the Hashemite dynasty with the same vigor with which he is aiming them at the PLO at present.

It should not be forgotten that it was our foreign minister who agreed in an Israeli-American working paper in October of 1977 that the Palestinians (residents of the occupied territories) would be a party at the Geneva conference when it would be reconvened. We are doing Mr Dayan no injustice if we assume that it was not merely an accommodation to Washington's views. He was motivated also by a wish to block the road to the Jordanian option. Mr Begin's autonomy plan and the Camp David Agreement simply expanded Moshe Dayan's thinking. Even in the days of the Alinment regime he was convinced of the necessity of the continued and effective Israeli control of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This is the fundamental basis of the consonance of viewpoint existing between the prime minister and the minister for foreign affairs: they are firmly convinced that Western Israel should not be partitioned. Mr Begin was very anxious to have Moshe Dayan included in the regime and welcomed him. The latter agreed with Mr Begin not to impose an Israeli legal and justice administration on Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Mr Dayan had argued for years that annexation was not necessary to achieve the objective both he and the head of the Herut movement were striving to obtain. He believed it would be possible to retain Israeli rule over the occupied territories through more delicate and refined methods rather than outright annexation. He

believed it possible to establish Israeli settlements in the occupied territories without unnecessarily provoking the Arabs in the territories and without arousing vigorous opposition from the United States.

The debate between the two leaders is confined to differences in the methods of implementation and not to questions of principle. Regarding the question of implementation the foreign minister has often felt that Gush Emunim and the minister for agriculture are causing harm which can be prevented. On the other hand it is difficult for the prime minister to divest himself of his connection with the 'Greater Israel' group who are in fact his supporters and disciples. Mr Begin still refuses to admit even to himself that he was bested at Camp David and that he opened the door to the possibility of a Palestinian state. Mr Dayan on the other hand is prepared to steer the negotiations in a direction which would prevent an image of Israel as a state which is seeking to renege on its promises. He believes it is possible to create a concept of autonomy that would serve to retain the West Bank as a territory not to be annexed by Israel and not to be returned to the Hashemite Kingdom.

In general Dayan does not believe in the necessity of precisely defined boundaries. In his opinion Westerners in their thinking are accustomed to rigid and definitive concepts. However, in the East it is possible to arrive at solutions to national and political problems that are quite viable though not defined with that high degree of exactitude. He is not pleased with the manner in which the negotiations with Egypt and the United States are progressing on the subject of autonomy. Even this difference of opinion between him and the prime minister is still expressed against a background of unanimity as to the final goal.

From a practical viewpoint it seems that the foreign minister's position is more flexible and accommodating than the prime minister's. He is fully aware of the fact that we cannot 'escape' from autonomy. I would like to add that David Ben Gurion could disengage himself at a definite point in time from the Biltmore Plan. But after all it was no more than an internal document that the Zionists were debating among themselves. In contrast the autonomy plan is anchored in an international agreement. It has added validity stemming from the joint letter of Messrs Begin and Sadat of 26 March 1979 to the President of the United States. This letter is now part of the peace treaty between the two states.

What remains as a matter of concern now is to make certain that the form given to autonomy will contain nothing that may block progress toward a permanent solution. We must bear in mind however that our efforts to exclude from the autonomy plan any provisions we feel will facilitate the formation of an independent Palestinian State will evoke a counter-action from the opposing side. Their efforts will be pointed toward the prevention of having the autonomy plan become a transitional stage for the absorption of the territories within the boundaries of the State of Israel.

The prospect is for a long and difficult negotiation, even if at present there will be a few months' pause. The Begin-Burg line is certain to deepen the differences between us and Egypt and the United States. The approach of Dayan and Ezer Weizman promises a calmer climate for the negotiations, but it is doubtful whether even this will prevent a split. It will still be possible to block a return to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State. The desperate struggle to nullify our historic acceptance of the partition of Western Israel and the projections of the Day of Atonement War do not bode well for us in the future. When the hour of decision arrives there is no certainty that the pact between the prime minister and the minister for foreign affairs will weather the storm.

8995
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ISRAEL

EGYPTIAN ASSESSMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION REVIEWED

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Sep 79 pp 9-10

[Article: "Analysis of Political Forces and Trends From an Egyptian Perspective"]

[Text] Sadat's statement that he is convinced that Jordan would join the peace talks raised the question: On what does the Egyptian president base his optimistic prediction? It became more curious since it brought forth an unequivocal denial from King Hussein. It became clear that Sadat is not the only one who perceives the trend in this light. It is not the heartfelt wish of a solitary individual. This assessment is the view of the entire Egyptian nation. The intelligence people as well as senior army officers are voicing the same opinion. This assessment is no doubt based on intelligence data culled from various Arab states. It is an interesting evaluation, though in essence it is erroneous and fails to interpret the facts correctly.

Actually what is the basis for this Egyptian evaluation of the situation? It is apparent that events in Jordan are not the grounds for Sadat's deductions regarding Hussein. His conclusions are based on the occurrences in the neighboring Arab states. Conditions there will in the end dictate that Jordan and Israel enter into negotiations. The Egyptians claim that the rejectionist front is declining and disintegrating. Old and acrimonious differences of opinion and deep fears that have always divided a number of the rejectionist states have again come to the surface. The true picture is becoming clearer. Many of the states who have joined in this artificial coalition have become convinced that internal Egyptian opposition to the peace process has failed to topple Sadat. They know that without Egypt they would in the course of time find themselves in a perilous situation.

The assessment regarding Syria is that within a year Assad's regime will fall. The sands in his clock are running out. His political strength is decreasing. According to Cairo's analysis Assad cannot continue in this present situation of no war and no peace. In this present state of affairs his weakness is accentuated and his internal problems are increasing. The coalition with Iraq is not realistic. It failed to gloss over the ancient rivalries and it stimulated internal opposition within Syria.

Similarly Assad was catapulted into a no-win situation in Lebanon. Domination of certain portions of Lebanon gave rise to more problems than compensations. Added to all these troubles the sectarian problems are becoming more aggravated and the internal ferment against his rule is surfacing. Assad will not consider activating his army against the Suni sect for fear of wholesale desertions and mutiny within the army.

The Egyptians are highly pleased with the complicated situation in which Assad finds himself. Against this background it is easy to understand why they are so placid and unconcerned about the IDF actions in Lebanon. It has been given assurances that Israel does not covet any territory there. It knows that Israel is not interested in the disintegration and partition of Lebanon. Cairo does not regard it as calamitous when the Syrian Air Force is defeated in combat or that Damascus cannot provide adequate protection for the PLO from IDF attacks.

In Cairo they estimate that it is merely a matter of time till Assad's regime will be toppled. Those who will succeed him will be persuaded that the natural position of Syria should be on the Egyptian side and not the Iraqi. Perhaps then Damascus will join the peace process and adopt the Egyptian political stance whose objective is to rescue the West Bank from Israeli control and establish a Palestinian entity in that territory.

According to the perception in Cairo there are encouraging signs even in Saudi Arabia. This despite the fact that Riyadh has joined the circle of Egyptian detractors. Saudi Arabia is prepared to make 'under the table' arrangements with Egypt. Within Saudi Arabia itself there are signals that portend trouble. We hear news of pipelines being exploded. The authorities fear the formation of an underground movement and the expansion of radicalism. Saudi Arabia is not similar to Iran, but internal changes may occur there as well. The royal family is as well aware as is the king of Morocco that should the need arise to seek assistance in the struggle against radicals in the Arab world there is but one address to turn to and that is Egypt.

This is the realistic situation. It is a mistaken policy for Saudi Arabia to lean on Iraq and other radical Arab states. If Riyadh will seek help in a time of distress it is reasonable to assume that it will turn to Egypt even before it comes to the United States. This despite the fact that it is fearful of the extremist elements in the Arab world. In the final analysis it must come to terms with Egypt.

In Cairo's opinion this is the trend. This is the inevitable direction. It may take time for it to show the desired results but at the finale approval will be accorded to the political process Egypt has begun.

In such a situation Hussein will not feel apprehensive about joining the negotiations. He will do so with alacrity in order to preempt the PLO. In the Egyptians' opinion Hussein does not require persuasion. He will find his way as soon as Syria and Saudi Arabia remove their opposition.

Israel however will have to be persuaded after the lapse of 5 years that the permanent solution of the West Bank problem lies with the Jordanian-Palestinian axis and not with the concept of an independent autonomy.

Against the background of this Egyptian analysis of the situation it becomes easy to understand why Cairo reacts so calmly to the time factor; why it feels no urgency in the negotiations on autonomy. This inference could be deduced from the conduct of the negotiators at the autonomy conference and from the conduct and words of President Sadat. If the process taking place in the Arab world is as described above, then it must be permitted to ripen. Time is essential to this process. Hence there is no need to be precipitate in the negotiations. It is far better that the basic arrangements of the negotiations be determined when Israel is being faced by Jordanians as well as Palestinians.

If this is the trend it explains why Egypt is not overly enthusiastic at this point in time to resolve the details of the negotiations and to reach a compromise with Israel. Cairo assumes and perhaps rightly that any compromise with Israel would trigger an indictment by the Palestinians and other Arabs that it abandoned and betrayed the Palestinian cause. It is preferable that the Palestinians themselves effect that compromise. This is the reason for the lack of urgency. At present Egypt's objective is to guard the basic principles and to assure that the negotiations are progressing in the proper direction. Sadat states explicitly that Egypt will take the first step; will open the way, but the Palestinians in concert with the Jordanians must do the negotiating. They will have to determine their destiny.

There is no doubt an added Egyptian calculation regarding the time factor. It clarifies why the Egyptians are not pressing Israel for a speedy conclusion to the negotiations. The approaching elections in Israel and the imperiled state of the Likud regime constitute an influential factor in the calculations. The approaching elections in the United States are evoking expectations in Israel as well as in Egypt. The same is true of our domestic elections.

The Egyptians as well as the Americans follow with great interest the internal political events in Israel. They are certainly considering the possibility that the political picture in Israel may change--because of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's health or because of the possible defeat of the Likud in the elections. Even if Likud is not decisively defeated there is a distinct possibility that a new political leadership will assume the helm. This will result in a new approach to the continuation of the negotiations. This matter as well as the inter-Arab problem is yet to come to fruition.

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ISRAEL

WEIZMAN APPOINTS JURISTS TO EXAMINE SHAMGAR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

TA091757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Nov 79 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has appointed three private jurists to examine the Shamgar committee's recommendations and to submit their opinion on the issue to him.

As is known, the Shamgar committee headed by Justice Me'ir Shamgar examined the legal processes within the IDF. Among other things, the committee recommended that the right of the chief of staff and IDF generals to mitigate sentences be curtailed. It also recommended that a jurist be appointed instead of an IDF officer as president of the Supreme Military Court of Appeals. The committee recommended that the IDF legal echelon be detached from the IDF commanding echelon so that the appointment of judges is not dependent on the military staff. Another recommendation was to appoint military judges for lengthy terms and to cancel the training period in order to prevent the possibility that a judge may have to issue a sentence bearing in mind his future career.

These recommendations were not accepted by the heads of the security establishment and the IDF. In their opinion, the recommendations contained several anomalies and did not suit the army's needs. Thus, the Defense Ministry has to date not carried out the recommendations.

The defense minister today appointed a committee which would submit its opinion on the legal, legislative and public controversies which would be created by the implementation of the Shamgar committee's recommendations. The committee is composed of three lawyers; Yehoshu'a Rotenstreich, Amnon Goldenberg and Yitzhaq Tunik.

The Defense Ministry has said that this time private jurists were appointed since the Shamgar committee was formed of jurists of the public sector. It went on to say that the Shamgar committee's recommendations caused controversies reaching beyond the army boundaries. Therefore, the committee members were requested to examine the Shamgar committee's recommendations in their broader sense and to submit their recommendations by the end of December 1979.

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

DEFENSE MINISTRY DENIES REPORTS ON ABOLITION OF COORDINATOR'S POST

TA152035 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Nov 79
TA

[Text] The decision of maintaining or abolishing the post of the coordinator of activities in the territories will be taken in 1 or 2 months, at the earliest. This has been reported by senior defense sources to our military correspondent 'Amiram Nir. The sources noted that as early as a few weeks ago the IDF planning branch was ordered to examine the possibility of an organizational change in the mechanism which deals with the territories. This change included the possibility of abolishing the post of coordinator of activities in the territories.

Major General Dani Mat had been briefed about the proposal even before the Bassam al-Shak'ah affair. Our correspondent reports that the general staff work on this issue is still embryonic and that the issue was not raised at any binding forum. At any rate, the Defense Ministry and the IDF received with utter surprise the report which said that it was decided to abolish the post of coordinator. Defense and military elements emphasize that this is still an unripe idea, which has no connection with the Bassam al-Shak'ah affair.

Our correspondent Rafiq Halabi reports that in the past criticism was leveled at the work of Maj Gen Dani Mat, when he was party to the organization of the meeting between Moshe Dayan--then foreign minister--and Dr Ahmad Hamdi Annatshah from Hebron.

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

BRIEFS

OCTOBER IMMIGRATION FIGURES--October was a peak month for immigration from the Soviet Union. The Ministry of Absorption data published today shows that 1,627 immigrants arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union. This is the largest number in 4 years. During that month 4,744 Jews left the USSR, of whom 66 percent dropped out in Vienna. The total number of immigrants arriving in October was 3,535. Over the first 10 months of this year 22,000 immigrants came to Israel. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 5 Nov 79 TA]

TRADE DEFICIT RISES--Israel's trade deficit in January-July 1979 amounted to \$1.59 billion as opposed to \$1.13 billion during the same period last year. The rise stems from a net increase of \$769 million (42 percent) in imports and a new increase of \$300 million (14 percent) in exports. On the average, the trade deficit was 39 percent higher on the first 7 months of 1979 than the deficit during the second half of 1978. The rise stems from a 2-percent increase in net imports whereas exports during the same period only increased 13 percent. [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Oct 79 p 3 TA]

BEDOUINS COMPENSATED WITHDRAWAL--About 5,000 Bedouins living in central Sinai near the interim line of al-'Arish-ra's Muhammad--to which the IDF will withdraw by January 1980--were recently evacuated from that area and will be away for 2 years--and have received compensation accordingly. The reference is to Bedouins who lived east of the new interim line, a site where the IDF intends to erect military camps, some of which have already been completed. The Bedouins were told that the evacuation was temporary until the IDF evacuates the entire Sinai. The Bedouins were transferred to another area in the Sinai and they were assured that they would be able to return to their previous location when the entire withdrawal is completed. Some of the Bedouins farm, but most of them are shepherds. They received compensation from the Israeli Government according to their occupation. [Text] [TA151218 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Nov 79 p 1 TA]

OIL IMPORTS STATISTICS--The price of the oil Israel has been importing has gone up 45 percent compared with the average price paid for it last year. This raised the price of imports by 22 percent. Data published by the Central Bureau for Statistics shows that Israel's commercial relations have hardly changed compared to last year. Trade has declined 3 percent, except for diamonds. The prices of imports increased 3 percent more than the prices of exports. [TA12004 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Nov 79 TA]

PRESS READERSHIP FIGURES--From research carried out by the Jerusalem Institute for Applied Social Research, at the request of the Publishers' Association, dealing with the reading habits of daily newspaper readers in Israel, it emerges that out of the total adult population 89 percent read at least one daily paper. Of these, 48 percent read YEDI'OT AHARONOT on weekdays, 29 percent read MA'ARIV, 9 percent read HA'ARETZ, 4 percent read DAVAR, 2 percent read THE JERUSALEM POST and the rest read the other papers, including foreign-language press, economic and other papers. As for the weekend editions, it emerges from the survey, which will shortly be published in full, that 50 percent of the reading public read YEDI'OT AHARONOT, while the data on the weekend readership of other papers is the same as that for weekdays. [Text] [Levi Morav] [TA180901 Tel Aviv 'AL-HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Nov 79 p 8 TA]

CSO: 4805

KUWAIT

U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL BELIEVE DESIRE FOR PEACE

Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic 16 Sep 79 p 1

[Editorial: "American Arms To Israel"]

[Text] While the United States claims to be seeking a "comprehensive settlement" in the region, it continues to buttress Israel's military position. The arming of Israel's military establishment, however, is done in various ways and includes permission for Israel to manufacture American fighter aircraft. What all this signifies is that the United States is not only seeking or working for peace, but that it is paving the way for Israel to continue its occupation and domination of the region. Having succeeded in getting Egypt to join the American-Zionist alliance, the United States perhaps believes that the status quo is the ultimate goal of its comprehensive settlement efforts.

More specifically, the United States appears satisfied that the current situation in the [Near] East does not pose a real danger to Israel, despite the fact that a state of war continues to exist--a situation that neither the Americans nor, for that matter, the Soviets wish to change. This is amply demonstrated by the U.S. eagerness to get rid of the large stockpile of weapons in its factories and surplus storage facilities. Judging by this attitude alone, the United States is obviously not taking into account either Arab oil or other oil. We note that while the Arabs continue to concede, compromise or seek new approaches, the United States does not budge from its Camp David position. Every compromise the Arabs make is a concession. It is becoming clear that when our position stabilizes, if it ever does, we will be far weaker than we were before the June [1967] war. Prior to that war, we were at least in control of the entire West Bank. Today, the best we can expect is the return of a miniscule part of the West Bank, and that is contingent on whether a Palestinian state is allowed to come into existence. The unadorned truth is that all these developments are the outcome of our amazing willingness to concede. Those who deal with us, be they Americans, Zionists or Sadatists, know this well and have no reason to rush or to respond favorably. They take one step and wait, then they take another step. We simply complain and retreat. It is a dreadful situation that goes back to 1948, as the Americans know well. Thus, they go on arming Israel in order to perpetuate the present situation.

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70

KUWAIT

THREAT TO EXPORT IRANIAN REVOLUTION DEPLORED

Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Sep 79 p 1

[Editorial: "Exploration of Revolution"]

[Text] Almost on the same day that Ayatollah al-Montazeri threatened from Tehran to carry the revolution to neighboring Moslem countries, Cairo responded by threatening to resist Ayatollah Khomeyni's ambitions in the Arabian Gulf region. This nearly incredible scenario, or, more precisely, this dreadful progression of events, only 1 year after the signing of the Camp David accords, appears to be the result of an unfolding master plan. The plan appears to have correctly envisaged that a course such as the one being pursued by Ayatollah al-Muntaziri will ultimately plunge the precariously balanced countries of the Middle East into religious turmoil and subsequently push Cairo into assuming the position of regional policeman. There is no doubt that those who drafted the Camp David accords were fully aware not only of what was to follow, but that they also knew the back door through which Cairo was to be rethrust on the Arab scene, laden with all the evils of the Camp David accords. Perhaps this is the best place for us to begin the search for an explanation to the Egyptian ruler's haughty behavior. He obviously believes that the Arabs will come back to him on their knees. The irony of all this is that al-Montazeri, as well as others, continues to declare support for the Palestinian cause and to reject the course taken by al-Sadat, even to the point of breaking relations with him. It is evident, however, that all declarations by al-Muntazeri and others are producing precisely the opposite effect. Not only do these declarations serve the purposes of the Camp David accords, but they are calculated to drown the Arab world in a religious bloodbath. The Gulf region in particular is likely to be the first victim. Foreign powers, as they have repeatedly threatened, in all probability will seize the opportunity of religious and sectarian strife as a pretext for a military occupation of the area. In all likelihood, these foreign powers are anxiously waiting for such an opportunity. Even the Egyptian ruler can hardly believe that the opportunity is presenting itself with such rapidity.

The truth is that for a long time we have worried about threats to the Iranian revolution from its friends. We could see indications all along that certain

KUWAIT

DANGERS FACING ARAB WORLD NOTED ON CAMP DAVID ANNIVERSARY

Kuwait AL-RAY AL'-AMM in Arabic 18 Sep 79 p 1

[Editorial: "Camp David: First Anniversary"]

[Text] First anniversary--camp (begging Professor Mustafa Amin's permission). Oh Lord, how bitter this has been. It has been the longest year in our history, for nothing moves slower or is more burdensome to shoulder than a time of shame. The first anniversary of Camp David, celebrated yesterday in the Camp David signatories' capital cities, marks, in our unsophisticated national view, the second tragedy, the second defeat and the unraveling of our Arab world at the seams. We do not, of course, claim that we were healthy and of one will before that; we were, however, a little closer to hope. And although we have witnessed during the Camp [David] year a few glimmers of hope here and there, such as the Baghdad summit meeting, a budding rapprochement between Syria and Iraq, and a growing positive Palestinian image on the international scene, the hopes soon vanished and we quickly plunged back into darkness. Just as we appeared to be heading in the right direction and to think that some of our dreams may be realizable, it became evident that we were chasing a will-o-the-wisp, a bit of hope given to us to make our death a mite easier.

When one examines the map of the Arab world from end to end, one is struck by the aftermath of the hurricane released at Camp David. It is far more destructive than "Hurricane David" that [recently] terrorized the United States. We do not mean this as an exaggeration. Having succeeded in 1 year to nearly destroy any possibility of collective Arab action, the Camp David group is now intent on decisively destroying the Arabs from within. The travesty continues as walls collapse everywhere. Nothing remains standing. We shout: "What is yet to come?" The Camp David people have declared an unrelenting war, one that has not ceased. The most tragic aspect of this war is that they are using us to destroy ourselves, much as though we were children with whom they freely toy. Like expert players, they take turns at this game, heaping ridicule and contempt on our heads. In turn, we have become experts in the roles they have assigned to us. We let them carry out their game and then permit them to destroy us by our own hands. Their tools: a little religious strife here, a few sectarian adventurists there, a few mercenaries, and the list goes on and on.

- powers or elements were waiting for an opportunity to plunge Islam, and the Arab world in particular, in turmoil. Our anxiety increased when Ayatollah al-Montazeri announced his threat to export the revolution, specifically in the form of religious and sectarian strife. We could foresee the result: a massacre pitting people of the same religion against one another.

We still hope that this will not be the future course of the Iranian revolution. We also hope that the irrational move in this direction will be halted before it is too late. We must admit, however, that these moves, even when purported to represent the thinking of only a few, will not fail to create skepticism and mar the image of the Iranian revolution. In particular, they will cast doubt on the revolution's sincerity to defend the Arab cause and to be a partner in prayer at a liberated al-Aqsa Mosque.

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They are playing the same old game. In the mid-fifties, following our first tragedy, and in response to our rising national anger against the creation of the State of Israel, they encouraged communist organizations to take the lead in directing the national current. The goal of that ploy, which succeeded, was to engulf the Arab world in class struggles and socialist slogans in order to divert our attention from the Palestinian problem. Our people actually fell into the trap, believing that the new currents sweeping across the Arab world, as well as Africa, Asia and Latin America, would carry them to Palestine. They became obsessed with bloody coups; and, just as predicted in the book "The Game of Nations," their brains sank to their bellies. Then came to real tragedy, the ignominious defeat of the June 1967 war.

The game is now being repeated. It has already brought about the second tragedy--the Camp David accords, which serve to sanction and make the first rout permanent. And just as they have prepared to guarantee the Arabs' defeat in June [1967], they are now fomenting religious and sectarian strife to tear the nation irretrievably apart. But even to this hour, the Arab leaders, without exception, continue to be blind to the realization that their regional security hinges upon their national security, and that their own thrones rest upon that security. And these are the fruits of only 1 year of the Camp David accords.

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MAURITANIA

DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN HODH DEPENDS ON EXPLOITATION OF UNDERGROUND WELLS

Nouakchott CHAAB in French 17 Oct 79 p 3

[Article: "Eastern Hodh: All Economic and Social Development of the Region Depends On Exploitation of the Subterranean Waters"]

[Text] Eastern Hodh is the region of the country where livestock is most important, the grazing is the best and subterranean pools are abundant.

But unfortunately this region has not been able to take advantage of these favorable conditions because of the policy of negligence which was practiced by the prerevolutionary regime.

17 Billion Cubic Meters of Water

In fact, any policy which aims at the economic and social development of the citizens of the region of Eastern Hodh must of necessity depend on the elaboration of a serious plan making it possible to benefit in an efficient manner from the subterranean hydraulic resources which are abundant in certain zones of the region.

In fact, the shortage of drinkable water is the essential problem from which the citizens of this region, which includes large quantities of subterranean waters, suffer. These quantities are located in three basic zones, which are:

--Dhar, which extends from north of Oualata to northeast of the city of Nema.

The Oualata-Nema subterranean pool is found chiefly in this region; its reserves are estimated at 17 billion cubic meters of water.

--Salsal Irah1 or the continental sandstone zone is located in the north and northeast of the region.

1,400,000 Mauritanian Ouguiyas for Sinking a Well

Thil El Hodh is the region which includes the south and southwest of the region.

The Dhar zone is the one which includes the largest reserves and, consequently, where the pastures are the best.

Concerning the number of existing wells in the region, the head of the Hydraulics Service at Nema reveals that they number 500, of which about four-fifths are located in the zone of Thil El Hodh where there is less water. The reason, he continues, is that sinking a well in Dhar costs a minimum of 1,400,000 Mauritanian ouguiya, a sum which is enough for the realization of two to three wells in the zone of Tilit El Hodh.

"Wells are numerous in Tilit El Hodh," he said, "because the subterranean waters are there in small quantities and are located at shallow depths," stressing that one well suffices for only a limited number of people.

He added that the fact that the cities of Nema, Amourg, Adel Begrou and Timbedra are located in this zone exposes the citizens to permanent dangers of thirst, especially since the continuity of the waters of this zone depends on the amount of rain which has fallen there.

In Order to Prevent Catastrophe

In times of drought, this obliges the citizens to emigrate collectively toward the cities, where concentration ensues to the point that they are not able to satisfy the inhabitants' needs for water.

And in order to prevent catastrophe there must be a well for at least every 10 km of this zone and in order to restore them, a search for points of water buried in the zone known as Agharet; the economic and social development of the citizens of the region of necessity depends on the immediate set-up of a plan aimed at serious exploitation of subterranean hydraulic resources.

At the same time he stressed that this plan should be based on encouraging the citizens to increase the number of well-sinking operations, particularly in Tilit El Hodh by helping them with the necessary implements and techniques and the exploitation of the pools located in the zones of Dhar and Salsal Ramli, on the other hand.

This requires large sums of money, since well-sinking operations are very expensive (up to 30,000 Mauritanian ouguiyas per meter), not counting maintenance costs.

Three Trucks and an Old Land Rover

Nonetheless, the results could be quite interesting; a well realized in one of these two zones (Dhar and Salsal Ramli) could start at about 60 cubic meters of water per hour.

In response to a question relating to the activity of his service the Hydraulics official specified that this service is contributing in an efficient manner to continued efforts carried out at the regional level to find a solution to the shortage of drinkable water each time that the problem is serious, and this despite the precariousness of the material and human resources at its disposal. These resources in fact amount to three machine drills, three trucks (two of them broken down), an old land rover and two drilling tools (one of which is unfit for use).

Despite all these difficulties, to which are added a shortage of motor-fuel and of single parts, the Hydraulics Service has sunk 55 wells in the region of Tilit El Hodh and undertaken the restoration of 36 others.

The European Development Fund [EDF] has financed 34 wells and restored 17 others, while the regional budget has financed the sinking of 21 wells and the restoration of 19 others.

Three Machine Drills, Cement and Workers

The 1979 program includes the sinking of 12 wells and the restoration of 17 others.

The EDF will engage in sinking four wells and restoring seven others, the rest being in the charge of the regional budget.

The head of the Hydraulics Service in the Eastern Hodh region specified that this year priority has been given to sinking wells financed by the EDF work on which was terminated at the beginning of last September.

The remaining wells for which financing has been granted by the region will be realized shortly.

He indicated that he does not foresee the realization of more than 30 percent of this part in view of the low amount granted by the region, that is to say 2,100,000 Mauritanian ouguiya, a sum which suffices to pay for the workers' salaries (840,000 Mauritanian ouguiya) and for the purchase of an insufficient amount of cement, which is presently undergoing an unprecedented rise in price (the price of one ton has reached 14,000 Mauritanian ouguiya).

The difficulties which the service faces also include a shortage of implements and single pieces, explosives and the rise in the price of motor-fuel.

The head of the Hydraulics Service in the Eastern Hodh region also stressed that in order to overcome the problem of the shortage of drinkable water it is necessary to strengthen the facilities of the service, to have the citizens participate in the realization of subterranean projects in the zones of Dhar and Salsal Ramli and to increase the number of wells in the zone of Tilit El Hodh.

The head of the Hydraulics Service made an urgent appeal to the citizens to close ranks and work in order to take advantage of the equipment which his service has available in order to overcome the water problem.

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MAURITANIA

BRIEFS

IRON ORE EXPORTS--A resumption of significant iron ore exports from Mauritania has been noted in the first 6 months of the current year: 4.7 million tons, in comparison to the 3.2 million of the same semester in 1978, or an increase of 48 percent volume and 42.4 percent value. During the same period production of iron ore has increased some 41.9 percent, in comparison to the first 6 months of last year, or from 3.1 million to 4.4 million tons. Thus Nouakchott has profited from the unilateral cease-fire decreed by POLISARIO on 12 July 1978. This advance will not be lost by a resumption of hostilities. With the agreement concluded 5 April in Algiers, the Mauritaniens renounced expansionism and chose development. A little more than one-fourth of the exports, or 1.3 million tons have been sent to France. [Text] [Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French Oct 79 p 58] 9161

PORT CONSTRUCTION--Late yesterday afternoon, Bennahy Ould Ahmed Taleb, secretary general of the Ministry of Supplies and Transportation, received a Chinese delegation which had come to confer with local authorities on the progress of the work on Friendship Port which is being built by the PRC. The delegation has already unloaded some 20,000 tons of material and 500 machines at Nouakchott. A 300-person team of Chinese technicians has already begun work on the 2,000 square meters cite and had transported some 20,000 cubic meters of stone. The next phase of the work will take place at sea. According to the technicians this will not pose a problem because our coast line is irregular, the tides are high and especially because this is the first of this type of project to be undertaken by the PRC. The delegation will remain in our country for two months and will strive to find answers for the technical problems which the building of the port poses. At the end of the meeting, the secretary general of Supplies and Transportation wished the delegation a pleasant stay in our country and indicated that we would support them in whatever way possible to overcome any difficulties which might arise. He praised the technicians already on the job who have demonstrated devotion and competence in the task given to them. [Text] [Nouakchott CHAAB in French 6-7 Oct 79 pp 1, 8] 9161

FEDERAL FRONT OF SOUTH--The "Federal Front of Mauritanian South" is calling for the organization of "free and democratic elections in Mauritania, and a federation in which the blacks of the south would have the same advantages as the North Africans. Fadiga Moussa, who presents himself as the secretary general of the Federal Front "is inviting the OAU, the UN and the conference of nonaligned nations to call upon the Mauritanian Government to publish new population statistics on Mauritania within the next year. He believes that the new census will demonstrate the real importance of the black population in the south, and wants the elections organized in the light of this new information. According to Moussa, the Federal Front was established 3 months ago in Mauritania. Its president is now in the country and belongs to the Nouakchott government. Moussa stated that "a military group was currently being organized." [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French Oct 79 p 11] 9161

CSO: 4400

MOROCCO

LIBYAN GOOD WILL CALLED FOR IN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS

Rabat L'OPINION in French 27 Sep 79 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] The recent signing at Rabat of the Moroccan-Libyan agreement on manpower and of an agreement on social security opens up a new outlook for cooperation between the two countries and constitutes a step on the way to its strengthening and its expansion.

The presence of a substantial Moroccan community on the Jamahiriya territory (over 7,000) makes such agreements necessary in order to guarantee the rights of our nationals working in Libya, who by their unremitting labor contribute to the development of this Arab country and to its prosperity.

For this reason this agreement on manpower touched on various points such as the regulation of immigration, social rights, conditions for residence permits, remittance of savings, housing, equality with other workers in the matter of rights, etc. This new step taken in the direction of protecting the rights of our countrymen who must enjoy the same social advantages as Libyan citizens will no doubt permit the solidification of fraternal bonds between the Moroccan and Libyan peoples and to lay the foundation for a mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation.

Thanks to the combining of our efforts, in fact, Arab resources will be exploited for the benefit of the Arab nation, and given the complementary character of the economies of the various Arab countries, the forward thrust and progress of the Arab world will be assured and achieved thanks to the Arabs themselves. The human potentialities of the Arab world and its gigantic resources constitute a major asset in the development and emancipation of our nation.

Unfortunately the differences between the Arab rulers and the dispersion of their ranks cause the Arab people to miss out not only on the opportunity to achieve political unity--which unfortunately remains only a pious wish--but also the opportunity to create an Arab common market, to strike down the customs barriers and to mobilize Arab energies in the fight against underdevelopment, neocolonialism and Zionism.

Moreover, it is regrettable to see a country like Libya, whose rulers ever since the Great Revolution of 1 September have unceasingly proclaimed their devotion to the unionist ideal and urged the Arab countries to merge, take positions militating against this objective. This is precisely the case with the Libyan attitude towards the right of Morocco to complete its territorial integrity.

The fact is that after the public support it gave to our country in its struggle for the decolonization of the Sahara and its return to the mother country, Libya switched sides and forcefully supported a band of mercenaries it generously supplied with money and sophisticated weapons.

This attitude on Tripoli's part is incomprehensible, the more so as the Libyan regime declares itself opposed to dismemberment of the Arab nation and the creation of puppet political entities.

Though we applaud everything that is of a character to bring our two peoples closer together and solidify their cooperation to blaze a trail along the road to Arab economic integration and the unity of the Arab world from the Gulf to the Atlantic, we can only deplore the aid given by Libya to the mercenaries of the "POLISARIO," spearhead of imperialism and colonialism.

The Moroccan people while working to achieve Arab unity and the development of cooperation between the countries of the Arab Machrek and Maghreb, insists as a fundamental condition on respect for its territorial integrity and the recognition of its national rights.

To be sure we have always advocated the erasure of the factitious frontiers inherited from the colonial era that artificially separate the Arab nation; however, while waiting for the attainment of such a goal one cannot accept having part of our territory amputated.

Besides, we would have liked to have President Qadhdhafi examine attentively the royal proposal to call a summit conference of heads of state of African and Arab countries bordering on the Sahara to make of it a zone of peace, cooperation and understanding, and that Libya might support this initiative which will open new horizons to the joint exploitation of the wealth of the Sahara, from the Atlantic to the Red Sea.

The areas for cooperation are very vast and diversified; all that is needed is a minimum of good will.

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CSO: 4400

MOROCCO

MANPOWER, SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH LIBYA

Rabat L'OPINION in French 27 Sep 79 p 1

[Text] Rabat, (MAP)--A Moroccan-Libyan agreement on manpower as well as one on social security were signed Tuesday evening at the offices of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training in Rabat. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Mr Arsalane El Jadifi, minister of labor and vocational training, and Mr Abdallah Soulasi, Libyan ambassador at Rabat. The two documents were signed on the Libyan side by Mr Faraj Alouani, director of labor at the Libyan Ministry of Labor, and for Morocco the signer was Mr Jaafar Ouajjou, secretary general of labor and vocational training.

The agreement on manpower between Morocco and Libya was signed in 1965. It was completely revised, to take into account the evolution of relations between the two countries in this field, and the situation of our compatriots working in Libya.

The new document provides a certain number of advantages favoring our workers, specifically the organization of emigration, the conditions for residence in Libya, social rights, housing, and remittance of savings as well as equality of rights with the other Libyan and Arab workers generally.

As for the agreement on social security, it is considered an important gain for our workers in Jamahiriya. It will be followed by an administrative agreement which will define the conditions for its application. In another connection the Libyan government intends to appoint an attache soon who will concern himself with manpower problems at the La Jamanairya embassy in Rabat. At the signing ceremony Mr Alouani, who heads a Libyan delegation of nine persons, was very pleased with this important step in the strengthening of cooperation between Morocco and Libya, and expressed a wish to see it still further strengthened, specifically by an exchange of tourists.

It will be recalled that the Moroccan colony in Libya currently numbers some 7,000 individuals.

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CSO: 4400

MOROCCO

HEALTH AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CHINA

Rabat L'OPINION in French 27 Sep 79 p 1

[Text] Rabat (MAP)--Dr Rahal Rahhali, minister of public health, and the ambassador of the Chinese Peoples' Republic at Rabat, Mr Mi Yong, signed a medical cooperation agreement Tuesday afternoon at the offices of the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

By the terms of this agreement, the Chinese Peoples' Republic will soon send a medical team of ten doctors, specialists in traditional medicine (acupuncture), relieving the present Chinese medical mission established at Settat.

In an address delivered during the signing ceremony, the minister of public health emphasized the policy of openness followed by his majesty the king's government in the matter of cooperation with different countries. He also paid homage to the Chinese medical mission for the beneficial and humanitarian action it has undertaken in Morocco, underscoring the importance of the role of medicine generally. The minister indicated that Moroccan physicians, given their competence and advanced training, could have their own contribution to make to the development of medicine in other countries, including China.

Taking his turn at the floor, the Chinese diplomat thanked the Moroccan officials who spared no effort in assisting the Settat medical mission in the successful performance of its task in its humanitarian endeavor.

He added that this mission's stay in Morocco made it possible for its members to make contacts with the population, which encouraged understanding and the development of bonds of friendship between the two countries. It is noteworthy that considering the importance of traditional medicine, which the World Health Organization decided at its last meeting to give priority, an area will soon be reserved for this type of medicine at Avicenna Hospital. Our country possesses great resources in medicinal plants in the Talsint region, from which it could develop a traditional medicine.

Finally we note that the signing ceremony of the Moroccan-Chinese medical agreement took place in presence of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Othmane Jennane, the secretary general of the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr Abdelaziz Bennant, the office director of the minister of public health, Dr Jouahri, and several members of the Chinese Embassy at Rabat, besides other personages.

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CSO: 4400

QATAR

BRIEFS

JULY OIL PRODUCTION--Qatar's oil production from land and offshore wells last July was 16,088,251 U.S. barrels. The monthly magazine AL-MASH'AL published by Qatar's Oil Authority reported in its most recent issue that the average daily production was 217,792 barrels from land wells and 301,184 barrels from offshore wells. Total exports during the same month from both sources through the ports of Umm Sa'id and Masab Halul were 15,910,350 barrels, the equivalent of 2,076, 041 long tons. [Text] [Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Sep 79 p 7] 9063

CSO: 4802

SYRIA

USSR MILITARY AID DISCUSSED

Paris LE FIGARO in French 17 Oct 79 p 5

[Article by Jorg Stocklin: "The Ambiguity of Soviet Aid to Syria"]

[Text] Damascus--The friendly official visit that Syrian President Hafez el Assad has been making in Moscow since Monday is being regarded with very special interest in Damascus. In fact, the trip was postponed several times: the first time because of a difference of opinion over the delivery of sophisticated Soviet weapons to Syria, then because of the state of health of Leonid Brezhnev, with whom Mr Assad was unable to meet during his visit, and finally because of the troubles that have marked Syrian political life for the last three months.

The two preceding visits by President Assad abroad, to Baghdad in June and to the Hague in September, coincided with a recrudescence of terrorist assassination attempts (notably at Aleppo and Latakia). That is to say that one perceives here a certain nervousness about the future being prepared by those mysterious Muslim brothers to whom the Syrian press attributes responsibility for the wave of assassinations sweeping the country.

Did Hafez el Assad put forward the destabilization attempts of which his regime is the object, to press the Soviets to do something in the Near East? In any case, the final communique from Moscow did not allude to it. But it is a fact, they are noting in Damascus, that the masters of the Kremlin hardly showed their faces in the region following the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, for which Syria, one of the last Arab countries to maintain cordial relations with Moscow, is now paying the heaviest tribute: terrorism in the interior, a sinking in Lebanon and the threat of isolation on the diplomatic scene. The Syrian chief of state on his own has ruled out any recourse to a new Geneva Conference (of which the USSR is cochairman with the United States). However, although they are affirming in Damascus that they want Europe, and France in particular, to take the initiative for a new negotiating process in the region, one goes back alternately to the two great powers to prevent any danger of military escalation.

In that perspective the Syrian leaders continue to plead tirelessly for the reestablishment of a strategic equilibrium, which seems to them to be compromised by the significant deliveries of American weapons to Israel. "How can we negotiate from a position of weakness," asks a highly-placed leader from Baas, "and what are we to think of the United States' attitude, when they not only propose a shameful peace, but let Israel spread terror in South Lebanon?" One of the arguments developed in this connection leads one to suppose that if there is an impasse in the application of the Camp David accords and a grave crisis between Washington and Jerusalem, the Israeli administration might be tempted to fight, if not put an end to, the Syrian army, which is still, to this day, the main pillar of the regime in power in Damascus.

Exactly where does this army stand? Although its adventure in Lebanon hardly affected troop morale (discipline is something else), it is really difficult, six years after the last Israeli-Arab conflict, to gauge its capacity. Last month four MIG 21's were brought down south of Beirut by Israeli F-15's. Five planes of that type had suffered the same fate in June over Saida (South Lebanon). Syria, says a Western source, has some 300 MIG 21's in a position, if it were not for their weak Soviet missiles, to hold their own against Israel

When these planes are brought down they are systematically replaced, on Libya's initiative, with MIG 21's of a more recent model. In addition to the MIG 17's and 19's (about 60 all told) and the ground-attack Sukkoi (50), the Syrian air force has about 60 MIG 23's. A formation of these aircraft, the Israelis revealed, recently engaged in combat in South Lebanon against F-15's. The Israeli pilots evaded the combat. About 20 MIG 25's, finally, are buried in their bases north of Syria. Is this enough to reassure Syrian flight commanders? President Assad, an aviator in this case, knows very well that he cannot allow himself to send his army to be wrecked without ultimately risking some backfire.

Efforts have been made to satisfy the military. Thirty-six percent of the total of the budget is reserved for army expenditures and security services. In the space of five years Syria has acquired 1,000 Soviet tanks (2,700 today), one third of which are of the T 62 type. Between last May and last July, Moscow delivered to the Syrians 100 T 72's, a model that no other member of the Warsaw Pact countries yet possesses. According to a retired officer, quoted by the daily TECHRINE, the Syrian also has 1,700 armored vehicles (there were 1,000 in 1973) and "a large number of missiles, " anti-tank, Soviet, French (the Milan) and Franco-German (the Hout). Western experts are in agreement in acknowledging, however, that the country's anti-aircraft defense is too weak at the electronic level, that this involves the missiles with which the MIG interceptors are endowed, the SAM 2, 3 or 6 ground batteries that protect Damascus, or the radar system with which the air force is equipped.

One wonders, in that regard, about the circumstances that led last week to intercepting an Israeli spy plane. That Fire Bee, which was circling at 1,000 km at the time, was brought down north of Damascus, probably by MIGs. In making the affair public, the Jerusalem administration accused the Soviets of having reinforced considerably the Syrian territory's anti-aircraft surveillance.

8946
CSO: 4800

SYRIA

BRIEFS

TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS--On Wednesday 24 October Amnesty International published a report in which it denounced the treatment in Syria of political prisoners, nine of whom died under torture between 1975 and 1977. "Most of the political prisoners," it indicated, "are being held without due process by virtue of the emergency law in effect for over ten years. Amnesty international believes that the number of political prisoners who have not been tried is constantly over 350 and sometimes reaches 1,000. However, it is hard to give precise figures because political arrests are performed by different branches of the security forces, acting independently, and many arrests are not officially recognized. Among the political prisoners are members of the Muslim brotherhood, dissident members of the Baas Party in power, Nasserians, Marxists, Kurds and Palestinians. The tortures inflicted on the prisoners during interrogation are increasingly severe. The methods most often denounced are blows, floggings, burning with cigarette lighters, gasoline poured on the body and set afire, enactments of executions, immersion of the victims to the point of suffocation and applications of electroshock to the genitals. During the last two years about 30 executions have taken place, 12 of them public." [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Oct 79 p 5] 8946

SYRIA-CSSR ENERGY COOPERATION--Long time CSSR-Syrian cooperation in the field of energy resulted in construction of the largest Syrian thermoelectric power station. Another electric power unit with a capacity of 64 megawatts is currently under construction. Thus the installation of power engineering facilities from CSSR will come to tens of thousands of dollars. The total installed thermoelectric power capacity is about 400 megawatts. That means that about one-third of [Syrian] electric power generation is obtained from installations built in CSSR, primarily by Skoda Sectoral Enterprise. [Text] [Plzen PRAVDA in Czech 26 Oct 79 p 1]

CSO: 4800

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER FITOURI DISCUSSES MAGHREB SITUATION

Rabat L'OPINION in French 26 Sep 79 pp 1, 10

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamad Fitouri by Fatima Belarbi--date and place not given]

[Text] The foreign minister of Tunisia, Mr Fitouri, has just paid a 3-day visit to Morocco, during which he spoke with several Moroccan officials. The Tunisian minister, who was also received by H. M. King Hassan II Monday morning at Ifrane, gave the sovereign a message from President Habib Bourguiba.

The conversation, which took place in the presence of the prime minister and minister of justice, Maati Bouabid the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, M'hamed Boucetta, and counselors to H. H. the king, Ahmed Guedira and Ahmed Ben-souda particularly addressed bilateral relations and the situation in our region.

It will be recalled that Mr Fitouri came to Algeria a few days ago, and was received by the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. Tunisia, which undertook to mediate between Morocco and Algeria to try to find a solution to the northwest African conflict, hopes that reason, dialog and reflection will carry the day over everything else, in the interests of peace and of the development of the countries and peoples in the area.

The Tunisian foreign minister, who communicated to us his grief over the fratricidal war setting Morocco against Algeria, nonetheless makes no secret of his optimism for the future. He told us it was just a question of time.

Here follow some questions which the Tunisian minister was kind enough to answer for us.

[Question] Mr Minister, how do you see the future of the Maghreb, of that area?

[Answer] My vision is directed towards the future; and in Tunisia we are optimistic. We hope that the region's future can only develop in peace and

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29 NOVEMBER 1979

2 OF 2

for the sake of peace, and especially so for our regions and for the various countries in our region, which need that much more than anything else. Tunisia has always wished that the virtues of the dialog might keep the region clear of situations that would impede the building of a better future for all the sons of the region.

[Question] Mr Minister, you have met with President Chadli, you have just had an audience with H. M. the king, what are your impressions?

[Answer] I am optimistic.

[Question] The Destourian Socialist Party has just held its tenth congress; what were the results?

[Answer] The Destourian Socialist Party held its tenth congress a little over 2 weeks ago. And as you know, it is a congress held once every 5 years. We held it under the watchword "Fidelity and Progress;" first of all fidelity to the principle of our party, which is one of the oldest in the Third World, and progress because this session was to sum up the balance-sheet of 10 years of work in the social and economic sector in which a constant progress has been achieved, not only as recorded in the official reports issued by the Tunisian authorities, but above all from the reports of the international institutions biased in no one's favor; I have in mind particularly the World Bank.

It is therefore a dynamics of progress begun in 1970 to be summed up in 1979, dating back not to 1970 but rather to the last Congress held in September 1974 at Monastir, tracing its path for the next 5 years. As for the proceedings, they went forward in a positive and well organized fashion, and everyone who had something to say had the opportunity to speak. I was rapporteur for a meeting of friendly parties from other countries, a very important one. We received no less than 45 delegations; from Morocco there were three delegations representing the three principal parties, and each one spoke, encouraging words truly addressing the effort accomplished by the Tunisian Government and the Destourian Socialist Party, that greatly touched the hearts of the congress participants and the Tunisian people. Everyone appreciated the high quality of the remarks made by our Moroccan friends. The work was naturally done in plenary session, where the congress members expressed themselves freely and broadly, then in committees, chiefly economic and social ones, which proceeded to a minute examination of the country's economic and social evolution, government actions, and the results achieved in the various domains, especially education, where over one-third of the national budget is committed to the educational function, the public health function which also receives a large part of the state financial effort; the socioeconomic sector considered one of the priorities of government action; also placed in exergue was what we call social transferences, which constitute the best application of the idea of social justice and for which Tunisia is held up as an example for the equality of opportunity for young people and for all expenditures of a social character, such as youth and sports, culture, social affairs. All

this effort was codified and evaluated at its true worth for the 5 years past. The government's action in social matters, the rise in wage-levels and the role of the General Compensation Fund [Caisse generale de compensation] in protection and preservation of purchasing power, problems I mention to indicate the topics of discussions that took place either in plenary session or at committee level.

The general policy committee, which dealt with the evolution of our republican institutions, and the action of the PSD [Destourian Socialist Party] which always labored to bring about the consolidation of the republican institutions that are the best guarantee of citizens' rights, development, and the perennality of the Tunisian regime.

The third committee is concerned with foreign affairs, or more properly geopolitics, in which we evaluated the quality of our work in this domain in the past 5 years, and the appreciation occasioned by the foreign policy conducted by Tunisia, President Bourguiba, and his government. All this was summed up in resolutions that were published, and the Moroccan press ran lengthy extracts.

These resolutions not only gave a political audit to domestic stewardship, but also laid out the path to be followed for the next 5 years. This path is nothing but an encouragement to continue in the way we have taken up to now, which has shown itself to be a busy thoroughfare.

Finally there were the elections of the Central Committee of the party, in which regional representation was respected and a remarkable fact was the appearance of young university students.

All social categories were represented within the Central Committee, from which President Bourguiba selected the members of the Politburo.

[Question] Where did you get with the problem of the continental plateau which has Tunisia and Libya in opposition to one another?

[Answer] The problem of the continental plateau is one that goes back to 1962. In 1977 it got to the point of an agreement between Libya and Tunisia to take the case to the International Court of Justice at The Hague for some sort of arbitration, or at least for a ruling on the law governing this affair, in this territory claimed by Tunisia as an integral part of its territorial plateau. Naturally, Libya was of a different opinion. We went forward with livery of seisin at the International Court of The Hague on 1 December of last year, and Libya did the same. It followed this procedure.

The president of the court determined that the dispute is bound between the two parties and set the legal notice for each party to submit its case. So this is a procedure now pending.

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CSO: 4400

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO PRESENTS SAHARANS CAPTURED DURING SMARA OPERATION

Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Oct 79 p 4

[Article by special correspondent: "The Conflict in Western Sahara--The POLISARIO Front Presented to the Press About 700 Saharans Picked up During the Operation Against Smara"--passages enclosed in slantlines published in italics]

[Text] /The POLISARIO Front announced in Algiers, on Sunday night 14 October, that its troops had attacked Mahbes, which, it said, is the only town still controlled by Moroccan troops in the north-eastern part of Western Sahara. It claims to have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, in both men and equipment.

While visiting Rabat at the head of a delegation from parliament, former Prime Minister Pierre Messmer declared/: "The conflict is getting worse. However, in spite of an increase in the fighting, there can be no solution on the battlefield, since the men of the POLISARIO can retreat into Algeria and recover their strength. Therefore, a political solution is inevitable."

/Besides, our special correspondent in Tindouf tells the story of the battle of Smara as seen by Moroccan prisoners./

Tindouf--In the middle of the desert, on a barren and stony plateau, swept by a cold wind, on Saturday 3 October, the POLISARIO Front presented to a group of journalists about 700 people - mostly children - whom they say they picked up during their operation in Smara (LE MONDE of 9, 10, and 11 October). Still wearing the traditional black veil, about 200 women are meekly following the instructions given by the militants who are in charge of taking them in and initiating them to the new rules which will govern their lives from now on.

/"The revolutionary world, which will be theirs,"/ they explain, /"excludes all tribalism, all feudalism, and all past values."/ One must learn its new rules and vocabulary, and become a part of other social hierarchies.

In the meantime, the women willingly tell, in Spanish or in Hassaniyan, about their past misfortunes, the ill-treatment, the tortures, the rapes, the imprisonments, and the disappearances, which they say was the daily lot of the Saharan people of Smara. About a dozen men, most of them old, are not as long-winded as the women, but some of their testimony is damning. Thus Mr Ali Ould Hama, 78 years old, asserts that he spent 4 years in detention where he lost his eyesight because his sons had joined the resistance fighters.

This camp is a temporary one. The refugees are cared for, vaccinated, and counted before becoming an integral part of the camps, the schools, or the liberation army, depending on their age and sex. In an especially carpeted tent, a somewhat singular "follower" sits majestically: Sheyk Mohammed Ali Ould Sid El Bashir, the most prominent person in Smara, the son of an important religious leader. He chose to cooperate with Morocco, to the point of becoming an Istiqlal representative of Smara and mayor of the ghost town of Angala. In his case, the POLISARIO raid on Smara seems to have been an inspiration: he suddenly discovered that the Saharan cause was a just one and insists on convincing the international press of this, no doubt with the same tone of sincerity with which, a month earlier, he had preached the "legitimacy" of Moroccan sovereignty in Western Sahara.

According to him, Colonel Dilmi, with whom he claims to have had friendly relations, asked to be relieved of his duties after the defeat of Lebouirate, because of the army's "bad behavior." The sovereign supposedly refused. Taking into account the conversations with military chiefs, the sheyk "revealed" that recently the authorities decided to call in missions of foreign experts to reorganize the Moroccan forces. A hotel is supposed to have been prepared in Goulimine to receive Egyptian officers. On 27 and 28 September, two missions, one consisting of 25 Egyptian and American servicemen, another one of about 15 French officers in civilian clothes, were supposed to have stayed in El Aioun, the capital of Western Sahara. The French mission was then supposed to have visited Smara, accompanied by Col Mohammed Abrouk, commander in chief of the Moroccan forces in the Sahara. Finally, still according to him, four MIG-10 fighter planes had arrived in El Aioun at the end of September.

A few kilometers away, squatting on their heels, sometimes shivering in the cold, sharp wind, other "witnesses" were waiting for us. They look like lost children, as all prisoners of war in the world look.... They explain: the POLISARIO attacked Smara from two sides at once, broke through the center of the formation, took the town, destroyed the installations, notably the airport that had been put into service at the end of 1978 in order to receive Mirage F-1 planes. However, no aircraft of that type was there at the time of the attack.

How then can one explain what happened in this town guarded by 6,000 men? /"I was commander of a 'shock' troop of 40 men,"/ said Abdelmalek Mandar, 23-year-old officer cadet, career soldier, in the Sahara for the past 6 months. /"Twenty-five of them abandoned their positions before the fighting

even began. My superior himself, Captain Kassadi, fled. We barely had time to empty some cartridges. Ten of my men fell, we were surrounded, it was over...."/

Next to the prisoners are the arms captured at Smara. There are not many: 2 Unimog trucks, some American mortars, French machine-guns, Belgian rifles, a canon, and about a dozen landrovers. Some boxes with 23 mm shells with inscriptions in Arabic on them seem to have come from Egypt.

9465

CSO: 4400

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

OPPOSITION ELEMENTS SAID TO BE ORGANIZING AGAINST REGIME

Beirut AL-HURRIYAH in Arabic 22 Oct 79 p 36-37

/Article: Two Coup Attempts in San'a', Saudia Arabia and America Are Looking for Qualified and Efficient Young Officers/

/Text/ San'a, a special dispatch: San'a has witnessed a series of political activities and movements which indicate that the situation in Northern Yemen is shaky and unstable. An atmosphere created by two coup attempts has dominated San'a in the past few days. The first attempt was led by a group of ambitious officers who are connected with Saudia Arabia and the Americans. The group is led by Maj Muhammad al-Sanabani (commander of an armored brigade), by Maj Muhammad al-Ansi, the officer who led the attack against the positions of the National Democratic Front in the central region and who came out on the losing side, and by Lt Col 'Ali al-Shaybah, the former chief of staff and candidate for the presidency.

There are also reports connecting Maj 'Ali Salah, the military commander of Ta'izz Province and commander of the forces stationed at al-Mafraq, near Bab al-Mandib, to the coup attempt.

All of these officers have been arrested with the exception of 'Ali Salah, who barricaded himself with his own forces, and a few who obey the regime's orders. Recently, the Salah problem was partly solved when he was stripped of his command of the al-Mafraq forces while kept on as military commander of Ta'izz Province--which means that he has been stripped of actual military command as a prelude to his eventual liquidation. Among the officers who were also arrested in the coup attempt was Capt Abd al-Aziz al-Ghashmi, brother of former president 'Abdullah al-Ghashmi, who was assassinated in his office in June 1978.

The attempt shows that Saudi Arabia and the Americans are looking for young officers who are better qualified than the present leadership and are not popularly disgraced since they have played no political role. In other words, the goal is to create in San'a a situation that is more cohesive and capable of withstanding the growing influence of the National Front and the growing popular indignation over official inaction toward Saudia Arabia's continuous

takeover of new areas in Yemen, in addition to the mad increase in housing rents and the prices of essential commodities as well as the increase in inflation.

The second coup attempt, which was reported by political circles in San'a, was still in the planning and contacting stage. It was detected in the last 2 weeks of September; it was led by Lt Col Yahya al-Mutawakkil, the Yemeni ambassador to Washington, who recently returned to Yemen from the United States. He is supported by a group of officers who include Lt Col Mutahhar al-Wazir and Lt Col Husayn Sharaf. Those officers have been arrested, but Lt Col Yahya al-Mutawakkil was sent back to Washington and was not allowed to stay in the country for even 1 day.

The Islamic Front--"Wahhabis"

On the other hand, a front called the Islamic Front has been formed under the direct hospices of the Saudi embassy in San'a. Yemenis call that front the "Wahhabis." The front is being led by the following:

1. Shayakh 'Abdullah ibn Husayn al-Ahmar
2. Qadi 'Abdullah al-Ghasil (a traditional imam and a leader of the Moslem Brotherhood), who officially holds the post of chief of the Guidance Bureau, the bureau which is considered to be a Saudi ministry within the Yemeni Government.
3. 'Abd al-Majid al-Zandani, leader of the Moslem Brotherhood party and son of a feudal chieftain in the central region, where feudalism has been battered as a result of popular uprisings.
4. Qadi 'Abd al-Malik al-Tayyib, a member of the Ta'if agreement of 1965, which used to be known as "the third force" and which opposed the support of Egypt under 'Abd al-Nasir for the Yemeni revolution. Although that group raised the slogan "No republicanism and no monarchy, but an Islamic state," it has actually assumed the same positions of the royalists by its submission to Saudi directives. Al-Tayyib previously served as minister of education during the era of republican-royalist reconciliation, or actually the royalist invasion of the republic from within, in his capacity as an indirect representative of the royalists and a man who enjoys Saudi support, in addition to being a Moslem Brotherhood leader. This group is supported by a member of tribal chieftains and former monarchists who had been pushed into oblivion and can no longer reenter political life in Yemen except through new means and methods which might dupe the public.

The Islamic Front receives military and material aid from Saudi Arabia blatantly, and it distributes weapons in mosques and lavishes Saudi money on supporters and collaborators. The Yemeni citizens, however, view them as Saudi puppets and therefore have paid them no regard. Several attempts and moves are taking place inside and outside San'a in an attempt to find a cohesive alternative in which San'a can stand its ground in the face of the growing influence of the National Front, on the one hand, and can absorb growing popular indignation and resentment caused by the state's failure to protect national

sovereignty--in other words, its total capitulation to American-Saudi influence, to the point of coordinating military plans and operations with Saudi Arabia against the Yemeni Wa'ila tribes which have heroically confronted Saudia Arabia's attempt to take over Yemeni territory.

A Secret Conference

The aforementioned moves included the holding of a secret conference in August 1979, attended by representatives of a nationalist party associated with an oil-producing country in the Arab east, led by Qasim Salam, member of the Nationalist command. One of the persons closely associated with this group is Muhsin al-Ayni. The tribal chieftains were represented by Bayt Abu Luhum, Mujahid Abu Shawarib, and Shaykh Amin 'Abd al-Wasi' Nu'man. Merchants were represented by 'Abd al-Rahman Ha'il Sa'id, Sufan, and al-Wa'ttari. The conference was dominated by the spirit of "rapprochement" which, according to AFP, now exists between Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The main results of the conference were the following /goals/:

1. Establishment of a regime that would serve the interests and objectives of the forces represented at the conference, who were seeking to abolish the unity accords between North and South Yemen.
2. Replacement of 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, either through a coup or by assassination.
3. The conferees agreed that Mujahid Abu Shawarib (presently the deputy prime minister) should become president, while Qasim Salam should become prime minister (note the sectarian distribution here).

To support that line, the oil-producing states in the Arab east presented Northern Yemen with about 100 tanks bought from Poland--the deal which Western news agencies had interpreted as a Soviet decision to arm Northern Yemen. That state has been reassuring Saudia Arabia for some time now, so that they might coordinate their efforts in Yemen. The most significant sign in this connection is the statement by a major personality to the effect that his country is prepared to defend Saudi Arabia against any Soviet attack (?!). The presentation of 100 tanks and \$300 million to Northern Yemen was a gesture of good will to demonstrate that they stand together in support of San'a against its southern neighbor and against internal opposition, especially the National Front.

On the other hand, Shaykh Hammud al-Sabri, member of the North Yemen Peace and Solidarity Committee, was assassinated this past month in his home in San'a because of his obvious activities in support of the Wa'ilah tribes in their interception of Saudi attacks against Yemeni territories in the north-eastern border area. As Saudi Arabia and San'a coordinated their military actions to attack the Wa'ilah tribe, they also coordinated efforts to murder Shaykh Hammud al-Sabri. The assassination was planned by Saudi intelligence and carried out by the San'a intelligence service under the supervision of Lt Col Muhammad Khamis, the interior minister and chief of the intelligence service in North Yemen. The assassination was carried out by two persons, one

of whom entered the murdered man's house, went to the room where the victim was sitting with some of his friends chewing qat, and pumped 12 bullets into him, while the other man stood guard at the entrance to the house. When a cousin of the murdered man heard the shooting, he pulled out his gun and quickly climbed the stairs, but he was killed before he could take any action. The murderers fled, and the security agencies have taken no action whatsoever. The crime has aroused a wave of protest and denunciation in the public circles, because the murdered man was one of the enlightened tribal chieftains who fought in defense of the September revolution and remained loyal to that revolution. He had refused to acknowledge or accept any interference in Yemen's internal affairs or any infringement of its national sovereignty or independence. He was also a member of the Peace and Solidarity Committee and had attended a number of World Peace and Solidarity conferences. He was also known for collecting contributions from the people of his area for the establishment of schools, a hospital, and a water project. He was one of the first to encourage the establishment of education in his area, al-Khaymah, by providing material incentives to attract doctors and teachers. The citizens have refused to bury him and have demanded that the murderers be apprehended. The problem is still rankling, with no solution in sight.

Around that same period, /Saudi foreign minister/ Sa'ud al-Faysa arrived in San'a to put things in order. This visit resulted in the reinstitution of the budget paid to the government in San'a by Saudi Arabia, which had been delayed following the signing of the Kuwait declaration by the presidents of the two Yemens.

When the 17th anniversary of the September 1962 revolution occurred, the people expected that political detainees would be released and that an amnesty would be declared for all those who either had fled the country or are being sought by the authorities. This, however, did not materialize. Each time the government in San'a announces that it has released "all" detainees, it actually releases a number of persons who were imprisoned for reasons related to the so-called "trade in detainees"--a new type of trade which is now thriving in Northern Yemen. "Trading in detainees" works as follows: a number of people are arrested for no particular offense; those of them who are able to pay certain amounts of money to line the pockets of certain intelligence officers are later released. This practice has become a normal feature of political life in Northern Yemen. Intelligence officers like Lt Col Muhammad Khamis, Lt Col 'Ali al-'Atmi, and others have become "millionaires from trading in detainees." This, in addition to the connections those Yemeni intelligence officers have established with the Saudi and American intelligence establishments, which lavish enormous amounts of money on them.

9254
CSO: 4802

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

INFORMATION MINISTER ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, NATIONAL UNITY

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 20 Oct 79 p 37

/Interview with YAR Information and Culture Minister Yahya al-'Arshi by As'ad Haydar: "Northern Yemen's Information and Culture Minister Tells AL-MUSTAQBAL: We Will Not Expose the Waterways to Foreign Interference" date of interview not given/

/Text/ San'a--Candor marks dialogue with any Yemeni official. When an official wants to answer a question, he answers it directly. When he finds that it is not in his or his governments's interests to answer a question, he will frankly say, "No Comment." Yahya al-'Arshi, the minister of Information and Culture in San'a, is one of this breed of officials and one of the most prominent and active young ministers. He does not conceal his view at all that the Yemeni information media are not doing enough in the Arab arena and that "most of our Arab brethren are unknowledgeable about Yemen and its circumstances." The following interview with the minister focused primarily on Yemeni affairs at his own request, in an attempt to acquaint Arab public opinion with the situation in Yemen.

/Question/ In all his speeches, President 'Abdullah Salih focuses on the fact that Yemen has chosen the path of democracy. A constituent assembly will be elected in the next few months. Will all Yemeni political forces be allowed to participate in the elections?

/Answer/ Yes. Democracy is a daily practice, and the democratic spirit is quite clear in the dealings between officials and citizens, on the one hand, and among the citizens themselves, on the other. Democracy in Yemen is necessitated by the environment and by the goals of the September revolution. Therefore the leadership has concentrated on laying down a sound basis for democracy by assigning to the constituent assembly the task of preparing for and holding free elections. The elections will be held at all levels and will include all political groups. It is everybody's right within democratic institutions to explain his own points of view in various forms and manners. Our media allow all Yemeni views to be expressed on how best to reform the situation and society and the most suitable means of accomplishing the objectives of the September revolution. The only condition for participation is that the participant should be a revolutionary and a "Septemb-rist"--that is, a person who believes in the goals of the September revolution. Otherwise, there are no barriers.

/Question/ But what about the opposition political parties and forces in and outside Yemen?

/Answer/ There is no ban on any political group, for we are now engaged in the task of drawing up a national charter. The charter is being drafted by a committee representing all social groups on all levels and of all political persuasions. The draft of the charter will also be presented at people's conferences throughout Northern Yemen. We believe that all expatriate political groups should return home. Democracy can be achieved and applied through discussion among all groups.

/Question/ Although you have received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the Prime Minister of Southern Yemen, it is evident that the application and accomplishment of unity have been delayed. What are the reasons barring this unity?

/Answer/ There is no faltering in the efforts for unity. But the two parts of Yemen, or rather Yemen as a whole, wants the reunification process to be established on sound bases which do not permit improvisation or retraction. The unity talks are proceeding in the context of the Cairo agreement, the Tripoli Declaration and, recently, the Kuwait Declaration. As to the visit of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, its purpose is to review the results of activities of the unity committees--primarily the constitutional committee--and to draw up of a work plan for the committees to follow. His visit is also concerned with coordinating attitudes toward various practical aspects of life. The draft constitution will contain the outlines of the form of unity. When the draft is completed, it will be presented to the presidents of the two parts of Yemen, Col al-Salih and brother President 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, after which it will be submitted to the People's Assembly in each part of Yemen. The final phase comes when the draft constitution is submitted to a popular referendum and the result is announced. This shows that the safeguards regarding the establishment of unity are proceeding as scheduled. By their very work, the committees are making sure that there is a consensus of views on all aspects, especially the economic aspect.

/Question/ With regard to the economic issue, how will the distinct variance between the two present regimes be resolved, especially since the economic system in the southern part of Yemen is socialist while that in the northern part is based on free enterprises?

/Answer/ The joint economic committee has arrived at a common concept which will be disclosed in due course.

/Question/ Can we know the period within which such disclosure will be made?

/Answer/ This is subject to the work of the committees. A new meeting will be scheduled between officials from the two parts of Yemen. The necessary period of time depends on the completion of studies.

/Question/ The five-year plan is about to expire. To what extent has this plan been successful?

/Answer/ One of the gains achieved by the September revolution is that Yemen is now undergoing a process of development and change according to carefully studied plans and programs beginning with the three-year plan, which was a prelude to the five-year plan now in its fourth year. I can affirm that the rate of success achieved by the plan has exceeded previous expectations, despite all the circumstances and events through which the country has gone. This can be verified by the Arab institutions which play a part in the funding of projects, as well as by the international and Arab banks which also participate in the implementation of our projects.

/Question/ And what about the future?

/Answer/ We have already begun to put together our ideas concerning the next five-year plan. The plan will focus on the establishment of the infrastructure, such as roads and health and educational services, which is almost nonexistent now because of the state of backwardness which had been imposed on our country. In addition, the plan will deal with the productive and agricultural sectors.

/Question/ While touring San'a and Ta'izz, I noticed the widespread practice of storing qat openly. Various sectors of the people agree that this habit has grown in the past few years. Have you devised an approach to deal with this problem?

/Answer/ The chewing of qat poses a social dilemma which affects all of us. Qat is a local agricultural product. The addiction of the Yemeni society is due to the fact that the Yemenis do not consider qat a narcotic plant. But regardless of how Yemenis view qat, we feel that the widespread growing of qat has begun to affect other basic agricultural products such as coffee beans. Therefore, we are now trying to find agricultural alternatives to qat which would bring in returns that would persuade the Yemeni farmer to discontinue raising qat. We see in the Lebanese experience before the civil war when Lebanon substituted the growing of sunflowers for hashish growing, as an example which can be applied in Yemen whenever Yemen can secure support from international institutions.

/Question/ There has been growing talk recently about attempts to prospect for oil in Yemen. How true is this, and where do your efforts in that connection stand now?

/Answer/ Prospecting for oil continues, and the results which we have achieved so far are encouraging. Oil exploration is taking place along the coastal area stretching from Al-Hudaydah to Al-Makha. There are enormous primary mineral resources in Yemen which have yet to be discovered. We know for sure that there are aluminum and copper in addition to other minerals.

/Question/ A final question that has nothing to do with Yemen: it is noticed that there is a discrepancy in Yemeni positions on holding an Arab summit to deal with the Lebanese problem. What is Yemen's true position?

/Answer/ There is no discrepancy, unless this is a press hoax fabricated by some foreign elements. Our position on the Lebanese south and the Lebanese problem is quite clear, namely, that this is a tragic problem which has made our hearts bleed. Our position is clearly stated in all the pronouncements we have made. We are concerned with Arab solidarity and fully support the adoption of a unified position. If a summit meeting is necessary to devise possible solutions for this problem, then we will be the first to support such a meeting. I recall that Yemen was the first state to call for the holding of an Arab summit to discuss the Lebanon problem. The conference resulted in the dispatch of the Arab Deterrence Force in Lebanon.

/Question/ There are presently several plans dealing with the security of the region. The latest is the plan proposed by the Sultanate of Oman. How do you view the security of the region, especially since Yemen is on the Red Sea?

/Answer/ In our view, Arabs--all Arabs--are capable of protecting their areas if they stand together and cooperate militarily to protect the region. We have always been careful in our policies to steer clear of international struggles and the maze of international politics, and not to expose Arab waterways and straits to any kind of interference. The Arabs are capable of doing so, and we here are shouldering our national and pan-Arab responsibilities with regard to Bab al-Mandib.

9254

CSO: 4802

END